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Ex-Hagibis' son: I love my stepdad very, very much

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Fire guts Rustan's warehouse in Taguig

Tanong ng Bayan / A12

Halloween sa 'Pinas: Gaya-gaya o Pinoy talaga?

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Matillano getting 'only' ₱3M in retirement pay

PWEDE NA RIN ANG BARYA!

By Christian Esguerra

THE MAN'S getting "only" P3 million—but he's not complaining.

"*Sige na, ayos na rin* (It's OK, I'll settle for that)," Director Eduardo

MATILLANO / A8

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER
BALANCED NEWS, FEARLESS VIEWS

House waters down taxes; GMA meets tobacco men

By Gil C. Cabacungan Jr.

PRESIDENT Macapagal-Arroyo met on Monday night with representatives of Fortune Tobacco and Philip Morris after the powerful ways and means committee of the House of Representatives decided not to index the tax-

HOUSE/ A8

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Miriam fires guns at generals' wives

'Mrs. Chief of Staff leads active group'

By Michael Lim Ubac and Volt Contreras

SEN. MIRIAM Defensor-Santiago yesterday continued to pound the Armed Forces, saying that apart from the members of the "Gang of 12," a parallel group composed of their wives was actively involved in the "institutionalized" corruption in the service.

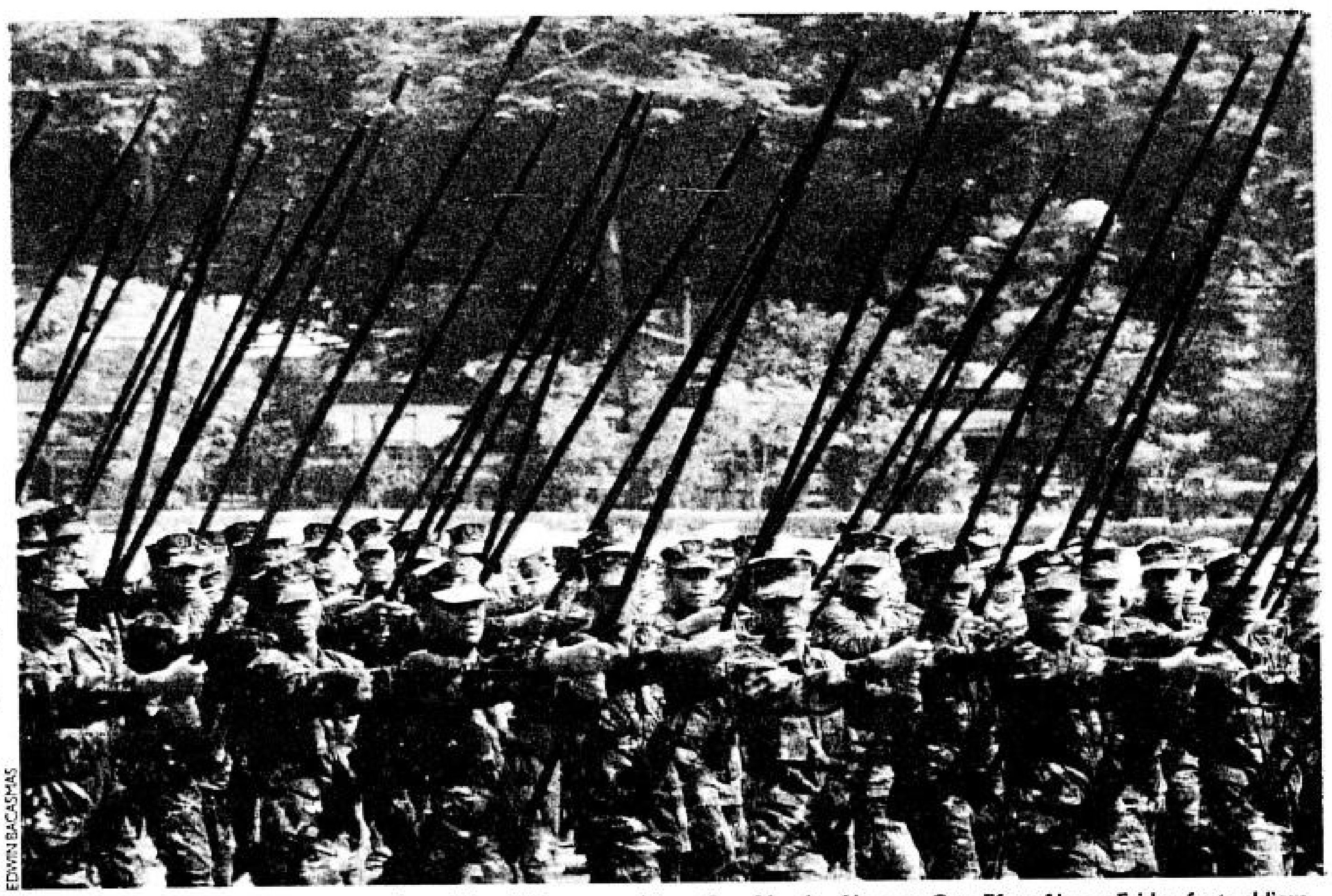
The administration senator said that unlike the wives of Mafia bosses, the women were "part of an operatic performance where costumes, such as uniforms and awards pinned to the chest, served to hide [their illegal deeds]."

"They themselves go out of their way to talk to the dealers" of military supplies, Santiago said in an interview.

She said that while not every general's spouse was involved in corruption, the women were usually led by the "Mrs. Chief of Staff" who "receives a cash reward of more or less P100 million, which is immediately converted into royalty-size diamonds, luxury vehicles, dance instructors, trips abroad."

The women are easy to spot because even their salt-and-pepper hair is "now colored orange, red, or other puzzling hues sufficient

MIRIAM/ A22



EDWIN BACASMAS

THICK in rehearsals for the turnover rites of the AFP command from Gen. Narciso Abaya to Gen. Efren Abu on Friday, foot soldiers go through the ceremonials even as they are reportedly reeling from the mind-blowing sums that some of their superiors allegedly "converted" and pocketed for their own pleasure. GMA says not to "drench the uniform in dishonor for the acts of a few."

Military enraged by Miriam charges

By Alcuin Papa and Michael Lim Ubac

THE ACCUSATION of Sen. Miriam Defensor-Santiago that a "Gang of 12" controls the Armed Forces of the Philippines and steals from it some P2 billion a year "strengthens the enemies of the state and poisons the minds of the soldiers," the AFP spokesperson said yesterday.

Lt. Gen. Edilberto Adan said Santiago's statement was an insult to the generals, their families, the officer corps and ordinary soldiers.

"It is as if the sacrifices they made for 30 years or so in the service were all for naught. For a soldier, that hurts. They are human beings, too," Adan said at a press conference.

He said Gen. Narciso Abaya, the AFP chief of staff, and members of the Joint Staff Command were "angry and indignant" over Santiago's comments.

Santiago said the "Gang of 12," which according to her was made up of the chief of staff and his 11 staff generals (J-1 to J-11), had institutionalized corruption in the military through "clearance" and "conversion."

Clearance refers to the falsification of public documents while conversion involves the malversation of public funds, according to the senator.

At least three officers led by Maj. Gen. Carlos Garcia, former military comptroller, face court-martial for having

MILITARY/ A21

EV ESPIRITU/PDI NORTHERN LUZON BUREAU

ABANDONED by his parents and living in a dump in Baguio, Melchor Fernandez, 5, scrounges for leftovers and finds himself a chocolate bar. The likes of Melchor is the reason for being of the Virlanie Foundation, which is one of the main beneficiaries of Amade Mondiale of which Princess Caroline of Monaco is president and why she's here for the first time.

Princess stark simple in dinner to raise ₱20M for RP's poor kids

By Thelma S. San Juan
INQUIRER columnist

FORTUNATELY, Manila didn't overdress Monday night (except for a few who shall go unnamed) at the fund-raising dinner for the country's disadvantaged children, because the guest of honor, Princess Caroline of Hanover (or of Monaco, as she was called before her marriage to a German royal) came noticeably dressed down.

She was in a long black sheath, unadorned, with only a gold cuff for a bracelet and gold earrings. The city's women in the 400-strong crowd, however, obviously exerted effort to don their long gowns as the invitation had specified, along with black-tie for men..

Royalty, anywhere and everywhere, is a crowd drawer. In the case of Princess Caroline's first visit to Metro Manila, the event carried a huge price tag. She did it to raise funds for the thousands of abused and displaced children and a few adults who have been under the wing of the humanitarian group, Virlanie Foundation Inc.

The foundation was founded by French sociologist Dominique Lemay, who has lived here since the '90s. Virlanie is a regular beneficiary of the worldwide humanitarian institution, Amade Mondiale, of which Princess Car-

PRINCESS/ A21

SC rules court-martial for 290 Oakwood mutineers

By Philip C. Tubeza

THE SUPREME Court has paved the way for the court-martial of 290 junior officers and enlisted personnel involved in the Oakwood mutiny in Makati last year.

In a 29-page decision released late on Monday, the tribunal dismissed the petitions of the soldiers to stop the court-martial proceedings against them, saying the general court-martial had jurisdiction over the mutineers.

It said that Makati Judge Oscar Pimentel erred in ruling in February that the soldiers' offenses were "not service-connected," pointing out that Pimentel no longer had jurisdiction over the soldiers after another Makati court had dropped the charges of coup d'etat against them.

The case did not include the 32 alleged ringleaders of the mutiny, who are still facing coup charges before Pimentel's court.

"In fine, in making the sweeping declaration that these charges were not service-connected, but rather absorbed and in furtherance of the crime of coup d'etat, the (Makati court) acted without or in excess of jurisdiction," said the high court in its unanimous ruling penned by Justice Romeo Callejo Sr.

"Such declaration is, in legal contemplation, necessarily null and void and does not exist."

The soldiers had asked the Supreme Court to stop the court-martial proceedings against them after Pimentel ruled on Feb. 11 that their offenses were "not service connected but absorbed and in furtherance of the crime of coup d'etat."

They said this meant that the general court-martial no longer had jurisdiction

SC OKAYS/ A22

Garcia withdrew ₱38M two days after story broke

By Armand N. Nocum and Christine O. Avendano

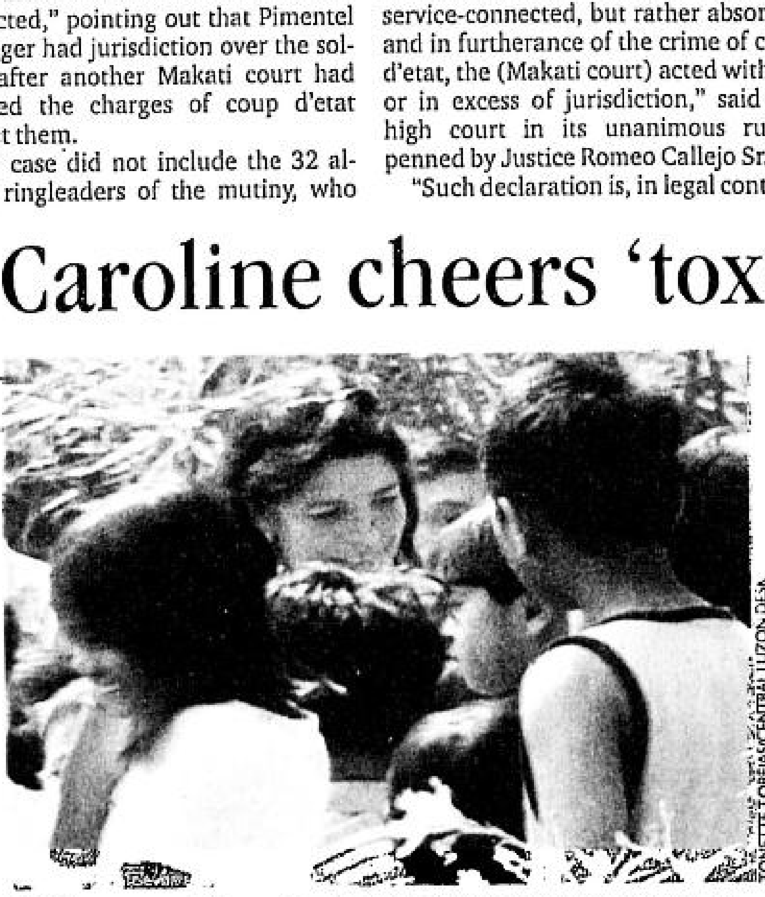
SEN. SERGIO Osmeña III yesterday said that Maj. Gen. Carlos Garcia and his family had eight more deposit accounts in one bank totaling P38.7 million.

Osmeña said Garcia himself withdrew the money in "boxes" from the United Coconut Planters Bank branch at the Salcedo Place Tower in Salcedo Village, Makati City, on Oct. 7, or just two days after the media reported on the corruption charges the general was facing for his unexplained wealth.

"At 3 p.m. of Oct. 7, General Garcia withdrew everything in cash, because there was

GARCIA / A21

Caroline cheers 'tox-sick' kids



TONETTE OREJAS/CENTRAL LUZON DESK

ROYAL company: Princess Caroline visits children in Mabalacat believed to have gotten sick from the toxic waste left behind by US bases.

By Tonette Orejas
PDI Central Luzon Desk

MABALACAT, Pampanga—With a huge lump marring his cheek and forehead, 7-year-old Michael Pili finds it difficult to smile.

Yesterday was different. The little boy sat beside Monaco's Princess Caroline of Hanover and he was positively beaming.

He was one of 500 sick children whose illnesses had been linked to the toxic waste left by the US military at its former bases at Clark and Subic.

Michael's grandmother Norma, 61, took to the podium of the Parish of the Lord's Resurrection at the Madapdap resettlement site here and struggled to speak in English.

She thanked the princess for the visit and asked her to do one thing: "Please tell the story of Michael and the other sick children like him

CAROLINE / A8

AUSTERELY dressed at the royal dinner, Princess Caroline chats with Virlanie founder Dominique Lemay and Mary Prieto.

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 27, 2004

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WEATHER FORECAST

FORECAST: Bicol region and Eastern Visayas will experience mostly cloudy skies with scattered rainshowers and thunderstorms. The rest of the country will be partly cloudy to cloudy with isolated rainshowers or thunderstorms.

SOURCE: PAGASA

COMPILED BY: RAY LEYESA, PDI RESEARCH/10/27/04

Metro Manila	Partly Cloudy	Iloilo/Bacolod	Cloudy with Rains
Baguio	Partly Cloudy	Roxas	Partly Cloudy
Tuguegarao	Partly Cloudy	Cebu	Partly Cloudy
Laoag	Partly Cloudy	Tacloban	Partly Cloudy
Clark Zone	Partly Cloudy	Gen. Santos	Partly Cloudy
Tagaytay	Partly Cloudy	Zamboanga	Partly Cloudy
Legazpi	Cloudy with Rains	Cagayan de Oro	Partly Cloudy
Calapan	Partly Cloudy	Davao	Partly Cloudy

AFP goes on red alert

MASKED, Sen. Manny Villar and Gen. Anselmo Avenido preside over the burning of the illegal drugs.

PDEA burns P2.3B worth of illegal drugs

THE PHILIPPINE Drug Enforcement Agency yesterday destroyed P2.3 billion worth of confiscated high-grade shabu (methamphetamine hydrochloride), shabu-making ingredients, and other dangerous drugs in Trece Martires, Cavite.

Incinerated were 70,081 grams of shabu, 444,827 milliliters of methamphethamine HCL liquid, two million grams of marijuana, 248,000 milliliters of elixir syrup, 1.3 million of phenobarbital, 176,000 grams of Lomotil, and 379,000 grams of other banned substances.

The haul covered a total of 662 cases, 405 of which came from the PDEA, 255 from the National Bureau of Investigation, and two from the Philippine National Police.

The burning of the banned substances, held at the Integrated Waste Management Facility in Barangay Aguado, Trece Martires, brought to P9.6 billion the amount of dangerous drugs the government has destroyed since July 30, 2002 when the PDEA was officially activated.

Undersecretary General Anselmo Avenido Jr., the PDEA director, said the dangerous drugs had been confiscated in the course of 3,406 anti-drugs operations.

He added that this was the 10th time that a huge volume of confiscated drugs were destroyed under RA 9165, or the Comprehensive Dangerous Drugs Act of 2002.

"This burning should erase public perception that confiscated drugs are being recycled in the streets," Avenido said.

Administration Sen. Manuel Villar, who attended the drugs-burning exercise, urged the President to declare a national "drug crisis," saying the drug menace has remained the Philippines' top problem despite the numerous raids on clandestine illegal drug factories.

"We must face the drug problem the way we are facing the fiscal crisis because this problem is much bigger than we think it is. The President must control this crisis and face this directly," he said in a statement.

Villar, who chairs the congressional oversight committee on illegal drugs, said he would initiate a "deeper look" into the problem which has "caused the destruction of so many lives and damaged the economy."

He said he was not satisfied with the recent success of the government drug enforcement offices.

"I don't know if we should be contented with the destruction of these confiscated drugs. Because we still don't know how much of the total drugs [available in the streets] have already been cleared," he said. *Christian V. Esguerra, Nelson F. Flores and Marlon Ramos, PDI Southern Luzon Bureau*

Palace on coup: What coup?

By Gil Cabacungan

MALACAÑANG yesterday kept its poise as it brushed off speculations of another coup d'etat in the offing.

In an interview with reporters following a meeting of the National Security Council, Press Secretary Ignacio Bunye said that President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo and her Cabinet and military officials tackled the worsening violence in Iraq and that they never discussed the swirling coup rumors or Sen. Rodolfo Biazon's claim that there were three military generals plotting a mutiny.

"The President as commander in chief knows the status of the Armed Forces and the loyalty of the chain of command is unbreakable," said Bunye when asked if Biazon's claim was serious enough to merit a closer look by higher-ups. "We don't know what are the reasons of Biazon for making the statement."

President Arroyo had cut short her afternoon schedule yesterday to attend the NSC meeting attended by top police and military officials which further bolstered talks of a coup triggered by the Armed Forces of the Philippines red alert status.

Bunye said that the AFP spokesperson had fully explained the red alert status as a precaution against reports of an order by exiled communist leader Jose Ma. Sison to carry out bombing attacks in the country.

Bunye said the NSC meeting, presided over by Executive Secretary Eduardo Ermita, focused on the Iraq situation and how the government should prepare for an evacuation of overseas Filipino workers there should the situation become more dangerous.

He said the meeting had been booked as early as two days ago and another one was set for Nov. 3 to draw up the government's contingency plans. "We want to constantly remind our compatriots of the danger of going to Iraq at this time. While we were lucky the first time in the hostage situation with Angelo de la Cruz, the next time we might not be as lucky," Bunye said.

THE ARMED Forces of the Philippines went on red alert yesterday against possible attempts by communist guerrillas to destabilize the government, amid a widening corruption scandal in the military.

An AFP spokesperson said troops were placed on 24-hour standby with all leaves canceled because of fears of attacks, after exiled rebel leaders had called for "widespread dissent" against the government for allegedly sabotaging the peace negotiations with them.

Communist Party of the Philippines founding chair Jose Ma. Sison had called for President Macapagal-Arroyo's removal through "a popular uprising, civil disobedience, the mass withdrawal of support by political parties and personages, voluntary resignation, a coup d'etat or any combination thereof."

The Armed Forces "increased the alert status to red effective at 8 a.m. today," AFP spokesperson Lt. Col. Daniel Lucero said in a statement.

"This is to prepare the troops in the light of possible heightened attacks by communist terrorists," the statement said.

Tip from US

Lucero told Agence France-Presse the military had warned two weeks ago that the guerrillas planned to exploit the present controversy in the military.

At least three AFP officers led by Maj. Gen. Carlos Garcia, former military comptroller, face court-martial for having unexplained wealth.

The probe was triggered by a tip from the US government early this year that Garcia and members of his family had brought in nearly a million dollars to the United States over 10 years while he was earning the equivalent of about $7,200 a year.

Court-martial proceedings

President Arroyo ordered the military to start court-martial proceedings against Garcia by Friday.

On Monday, she had said the scandal could provoke attempts to destabilize her government by entities other than guerrillas.

"I will deal with these destabilizers with an iron fist, even as I hold out an open hand and open mind for those who are open to a just and dignified reconciliation," she had said.

Communist rebels last week accused the government of sabotaging the peace negotiations by linking them to international terrorists after President Arroyo said there were "growing links between the revolutionary left and international terrorist organizations."

The President, however, offered no proof of the links and did not name any terrorist organizations.

Communist guerrilla spokesperson Gregorio "Ka Roger" Rosal said in a statement that Ms Arroyo was "ripe for the ousting" for 10 reasons, including her alleged plan to terminate the stalled peace negotiations with them.

Growing links

The President last week called for a review of the approach to the 35-year-old communist rebellion, citing the growing links between the rebels and international terrorist organizations.

The communists denied such links.

For its part, the Philippine National Police yesterday maintained its heightened alert status which is lower than a red alert.

As far as the PNP is concerned, there is no security threat coming either from the communist New People's Army or international terrorist groups like the Jemaah Islamiyah, Senior Supt. Leopoldo Bataoil, PNP spokesperson, said.

All Saints' Day

"The heightened alert status was brought about mainly by the coming All Saints' Day [on Monday]," Bataoil told the INQUIRER.

By Saturday, he said, the PNP would go on full alert which is equivalent to the military's red alert.

But he pointed out that a full alert was routine for the PNP during All Saints' Day.

One political analyst told Reuters he was skeptical about the military move to go on alert.

"The communist movement is in total disarray. I hope the army is not trying to cover up the corruption scandal by raising threats from the armed left," said Ronald Llamas. *Alcuin Papa, Christian V. Esguerra; AFP, AP, Reuters*

Ombudsman probing Army colonel's slay ...

THE OFFICE of the Ombudsman has requested the National Bureau of Investigation for the documents and a report on the investigation into the killing of former Army logistics chief Col. Raul Heredia, who was gunned down in an ambush last year.

The NBI received the request on Monday, but the Ombudsman did not state the reason for the request. The NBI is expected to submit the documents in the next few days.

But NBI sources said the request could have been done in connection with the Ombudsman's corruption probe into former Armed Forces comptroller Maj. Gen. Carlos Garcia, who has been accused of amassing millions of pesos in assets despite receiving a P19,000 monthly salary.

Earlier, the INQUIRER reported sources as saying that Heredia could have been killed because he allegedly failed to give other officers their share of the money from a "big contract."

The same INQUIRER report also said that Heredia had allegedly amassed P14 million in deposits at Armed Forces of the Philippines Savings and Loans Association Inc. (AFPSLAI) and with the Air Materiel Savings and Loans Association Inc. (AMSLAI).

He was also reported to own a resort in Laguna and properties in Baguio, Makati and Rizal.

Heredia, 49, was gunned down on Dec. 23, 2003 outside his parents' house in Proj. 4, Quezon City. *Leila Salaverria*

... And ex-PNP comptroller

OMBUDSMAN Simeon Marcelo yesterday confirmed that the Office of the Ombudsman was investigating former Philippine National Police comptroller and now Transportation Undersecretary Cecilio Penilla for alleged unexplained wealth.

In an interview, Marcelo said US authorities have sent his office some information on Penilla's assets in the United States.

It was information from US Customs authorities that started the Ombudsman's ongoing investigation into former AFP comptroller Maj. Gen. Carlos Garcia.

"Yes, we are now doing [a] fact-finding investigation on him [Penilla]. Our investigators are in the process of verifying information received by the office about his assets. I am not at liberty to discuss this procedure until we have something definite," Marcelo said. *Armand Nocum*

2 senators warn of 'military adventurism'

By Christine O. Avendaño

THE CORRUPTION controversy involving Maj. Gen. Carlos Garcia has so shaken the military that two factions are threatening to destabilize the Arroyo administration.

One faction is made up of those seeking to protect the corrupt system in the Armed Forces and the other wants to cleanse it, Sen. Miriam Defensor-Santiago said yesterday.

Sen. Rodolfo Biazon said three retired Filipino generals in the United States told him they were "talking about (engaging) in military adventurism" in light of the Garcia case.

"I am not being alarmist," Biazon told reporters. "I am raising this issue to forewarn the people, especially the AFP."

Biazon said he was in Los Angeles, California, last week when he met with the retired generals who, like him, were in the US for a visit.

"They were talking about the possibility of addressing the situation through military adventurism," he said.

The senator, a retired general who served as AFP chief of staff during the Aquino administration, said he dissuaded the three generals from taking any action.

But "when I advised them to forget about it, they just looked at me," he said.

He did not name the generals, saying only that they had been high-profile and influential during their stints in the AFP. One of them was his senior, Biazon said.

In a separate interview, Santiago said junior military officers were disgruntled with the corruption in the military.

She said a group of "idealistic" junior officers had approached her and served as the sources for her privilege speech the other day in which she revealed the systemic corruption in the AFP that was allegedly perpetrated by the "Gang of 12" top officers.

Asked if the group of young officers planned to engage in military adventurism because of the Garcia controversy, she said: "I must say that this was implied during our dialogue."

Santiago said there were actually many groups that wanted to destabilize the government and these included "those who are pro-military takeover and anti-military takeover."

"*Kaya uunahan na nila* (That's why they're going to try to beat the others to it)," she said of the young officers. "There are many things brewing in the AFP," she added.

For its part, the Association of Generals and Flag Officers Inc. is upset over the probe being conducted by the House, saying this could lead to widespread demoralization in the ranks and destabilization attempts.

In a statement released to media yesterday and signed by Brig. Gen. Paterno Lomongo (ret.), AGFO corporate secretary, the group said it was "upset at some developments" in the congressional probe of Garcia.

"AGFO views the ongoing proceedings and its concomitant effect on the general public, particularly those with insidious objectives, with grave concern. The morale of the rank and file of the AFP may be adversely affected by the negative comments against the AFP and the whole situation is open to exploitation by those whose agenda is to destabilize or topple the government." *With Alcuin Papa*

Will they leave Reyes' mother alone?

By Armand N. Nocum

OMBUDSMAN Simeon Marcelo yesterday revealed they had started investigating the P18 million increase in the assets and cash of Interior Secretary Angelo Reyes.

But will the Ombudsman leave Reyes' mother alone?

"We will not make her answer," Marcelo said. "If there is evidence (of graft), the public official will have to answer."

He explained that Reyes' case was different from that of Maj. Gen. Carlos Garcia, whose wife and children were caught bringing in dollars to the United States and who were named owners of Garcia's properties.

"Angie (Reyes) did not give the money to his mother, whereas Garcia was the source of the money found in the possession of his wife and children," Marcelo said during a break in the anti-graft seminar sponsored by the Inter-Agency Anti-Graft Coordinating Council, the Presidential Anti-Graft Commission and the United Nations Development Program.

The former Armed Forces chief of staff earlier explained that his cash deposits rose from P700,000 in 2002 to P4.1 million in 2003 because he had transferred his 94-year-old mother's money to his account.

Reyes said he and his mother decided to have a joint account to make it easy to withdraw money for the emergency use of his mother.

Marcelo admitted they started the investigation on Reyes based on newspaper reports. He clarified that Reyes had not been singled out and that their investigation covered all other government officials.

"We are verifying allegations as they appear in newspapers," he said.

The Ombudsman also clarified that Reyes had not been cleared of an administrative charge started by the Presidential Anti-Graft Commission (PAGC) on the construction of a P10-million house in Taguig.

In Monday's congressional hearing, Reyes repeatedly said the Ombudsman had cleared him of the charge.

Marcelo said the case they dismissed against Reyes involved the multimillion-peso purchase of "spare parts" for military vehicles.

Zambo mayor scuttling peace talks—MILF

By TJ Burgonio

LOBREGAT

THE SECESSIONIST Moro Islamic Liberation Front yesterday slammed Zamboanga City Mayor Celso Lobregat for refusing to host an international team to monitor a cease fire agreement, and accused the mayor of sabotaging the peace talks.

Lobregat has rejected a plan to allow the 60-member monitoring team from Malaysia and Brunei to maintain a base in the city, saying that it would lure the separatist rebels, disrupt peace in the city, violate a gun ban and spoil the city's image as a tourist destination.

Eid Kabalu, the MILF spokesperson, said Lobregat's refusal was "tantamount to sabotaging the peace process" based on "pure, selfish motives."

"Others are spending millions to help us attain lasting peace and here comes a local executive trying to scuttle the peace process," he said in a phone interview.

Deputy Speaker and Basilan Rep. Gerry Salapuddin also assailed Lobregat for his "unwelcome" remarks to the international peace monitors.

'Here to help us make peace'

"If we welcome the presence, sometimes the direct involvement of American soldiers against the Abu Sayyaf group, I see no reason why we apply different standards to the [international monitoring team] who are here to help us make peace," said Salapuddin.

Kabalu urged the government to avert further damage by convincing Lobregat to comply with a standing agreement among the government, its foreign counterparts, and the MILF to allow the peace monitors to maintain a base in Zamboanga City.

"The government should settle this move by Lobregat. As far as I can recall, Zamboanga City is not an independent republic yet and is under the national government," he said.

"Besides, this is an international agreement reached after several consultations. We can't change it unless all the parties sit down again to amend it," he said.

The refusal reportedly forced local officials to look elsewhere for an alternative base for the monitors, who arrived in two batches this month to oversee the ceasefire agreement for a year.

Doing consultations

Teresita Quintos Deles, the presidential adviser on the peace process, yesterday admitted that her office has not yet finalized plans for a transfer site for the monitoring team "because we need to do consultation first with the local government officials."

The team's arrival was hailed by both the government and the MILF, saying that it would bolster past agreements and lay the ground for the resumption of stalled peace talks.

Kabalu dismissed Lobregat's claim that allowing the monitors to stay in the city would invite violence as the MILF has been assigned to provide security for the monitors jointly with government troops.

He said that contrary to speculations, only two rebels were assigned to guard the monitors at any given time, he said.

"We have no intention to occupy Zamboanga, much less distract the peace process. We want peace. They look down upon us as if we're barbaric people. Why should they fear two rebels? What are they fearful about?" Kabalu said.

Another team of four monitors from Libya is expected to arrive in the middle of next month when Ramadan, the Muslim holy fasting month, ends and exploratory talks are expected to resume.

Accessible, strategic site

Brig. Gen. Alexander Yano, the government representative in the joint coordinating committee on cessation of hostilities, said Zamboanga City was a very accessible and strategic site for the peace monitors' work.

Lobregat said his city was not considered a conflict area and that the people were still suffering the trauma brought about the Cabatangan siege perpetrated by the followers of Nur Misuari, the founding leader of the mainstream Muslim insurgency, the Moro National Liberation Front.

But Salapuddin said healing comes when there is forgiveness, stressing that "the business of making peace is both our individual and collective responsibility to make it succeed."

Salapuddin also reminded Lobregat "to contribute and support in every way the effective implementation of the ceasefire leading to the sealing of the final peace agreement" with the MILF. *With a report from Julie S. Alipala, PDI Mindanao Bureau*

AFP denies JI terror suspects are gov't assets

By Alcuin Papa

THE ARMED Forces yesterday belied the separatist Moro Islamic Liberation Front's claim that a member of the Jemaah Islamiyah terror group that allegedly planned to bomb the US Embassy in Manila was a military asset.

"The AFP strongly belies reports that the suspected Jemaah Islamiyah bomber, who planned to bomb the US Embassy in Manila is a 'military asset,'" said a statement from Lt. Col. Daniel Lucero, the chief of the AFP Public Information Office.

Military officials said the Mentang, who was arrested on Oct. 6 with his live-in partner Monawara Usop and another associate, Mursid Mubpon, had surveilled the US Embassy in preparation for a planned bomb attack.

The three, who were presented to the media last Thursday, allegedly owned up to having carried out the Davao City bombings in 2003 which killed 42 people and injured hundreds of others.

Mentang also reportedly admitted to being an MILF member and of having been trained in demolition work by JI experts in MILF camps.

The MILF's chief peace negotiator, Mohaquer Iqbal, claimed last Monday that Mentang was working for the military as an informant.

Lucero said the AFP had in fact already presented Mentang and Usop for prosecution before the city prosecutor's office of Manila.

The prosecutors have recommended the filing of charges against Mentang and Usop for illegal possession of firearms, he said.

Military and police intelligence agents recovered a .38 caliber pistol and a .45 caliber pistol with live ammunition during a raid on Mentang's house on Fabie Street in Sta. Ana, Manila, on Oct. 6.

The prosecutors also recommended the filing of separate charges against Usop for "attempted homicide" after she allegedly pulled out a .45 caliber pistol and pointed it at one of the raiders.

Mentang reportedly admitted during interrogation that he was a member of the MILF and that he belonged to the first batch of 15 MILF members trained in "basic demolition for urban terrorism" at Camp Hudaybiyah in Butig, Lanao del Sur, in 1995.

He said the training was conducted by JI leader Zulkifli, an Indonesian who was arrested in Malaysia late last year.

Mentang also said that it was he who assembled the bombs that were used in the Davao International Airport and Sasa Wharf explosions.

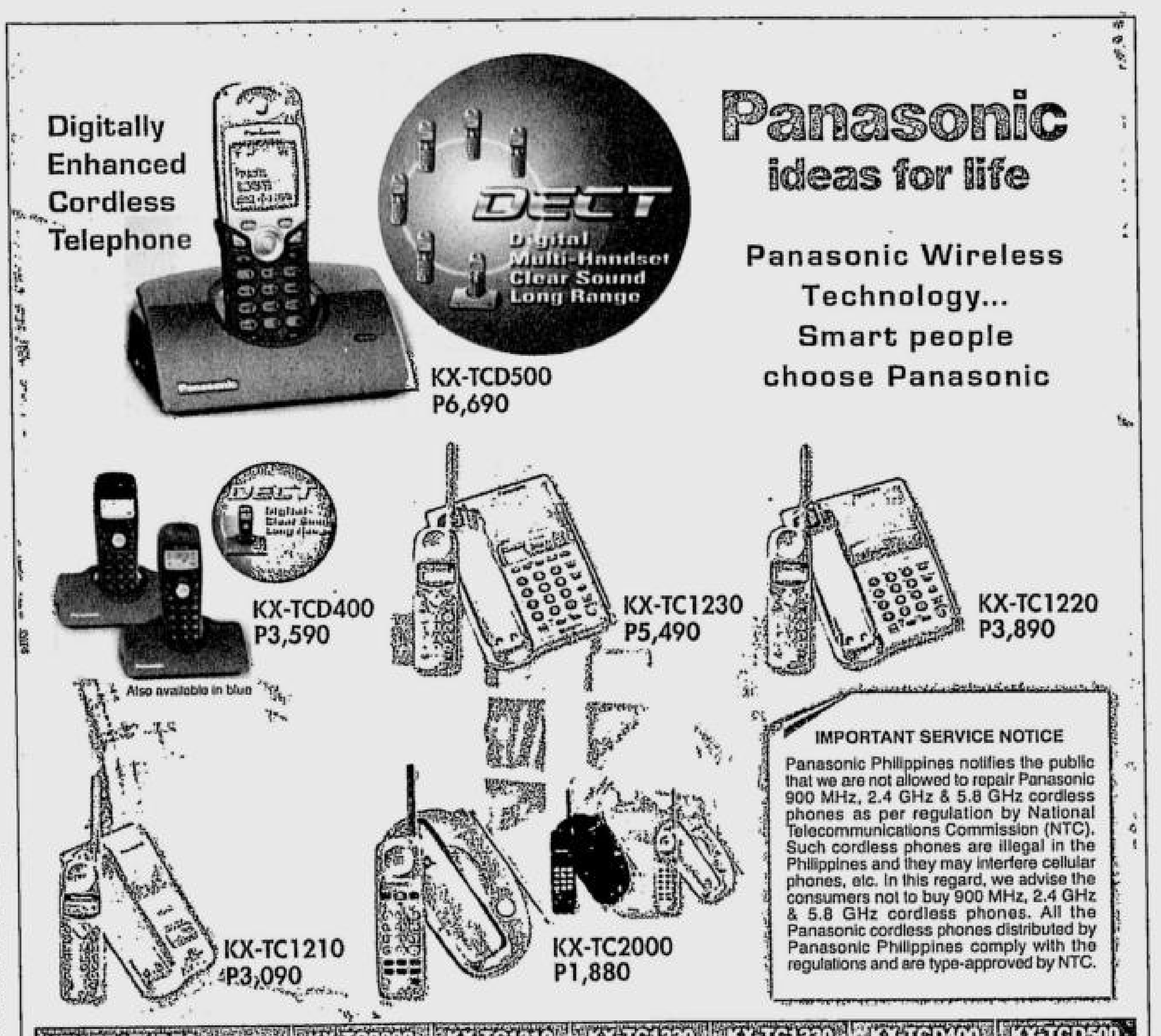
Iqbal claimed that the arrest of the three suspects was part of an attempt to divert public attention from the ongoing investigation of corruption in the AFP.

He also said the arrest was part of the military's efforts to link the MILF to the Jemaah Islamiyah, the SoutheastAsia-based terror group which is linked to Osama bin Laden's al-Qaida international terror network.

The MILF chieftain also said that the military had used Mentang to arrest other suspects in the Davao bombings.

Defense and military officials maintain that JI militants are training local and foreign terrorists in the Mt. Kararao range in Lanao del Sur, an area controlled by the MILF. The Muslim rebel group has denied the charge.

Peace talks between the MILF and the government are set to start once Malaysia, which is brokering the negotiations, sets the date for the resumption of talks.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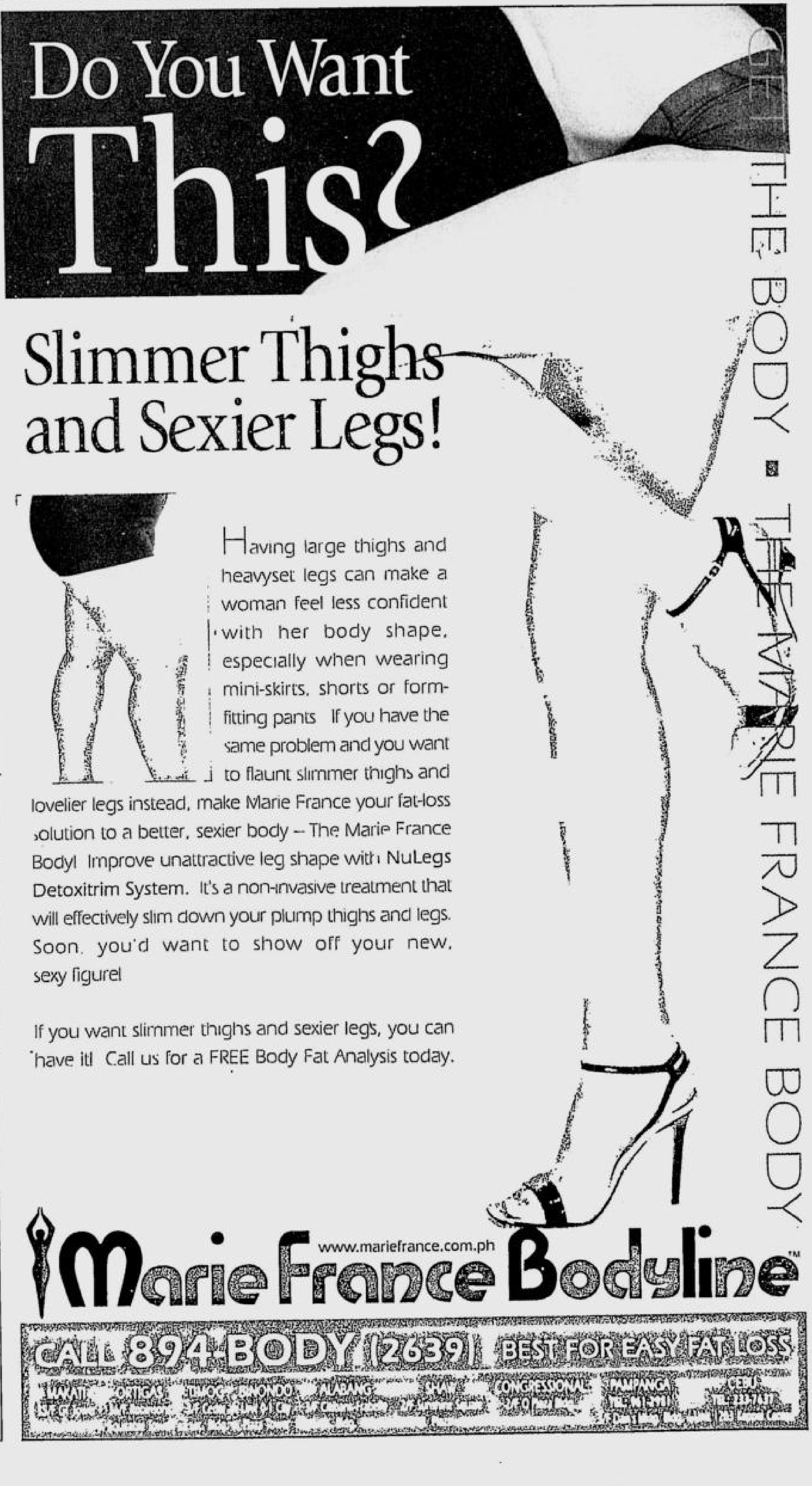
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MAKATI ORTIGAS TIMOG BINONDO ALABANG CONGRESSIONAL PAMPANGA CEBU

BCDA itching to evict ex-generals from P12-B property

By Gil Cabacungan Jr.

THE CORRUPTION scandal hounding the military has boosted the Bases Conversion Development Authority's (BCDA) hope of getting a favorable ruling from the Supreme Court that would allow it to evict the retired generals and their families from the P12-billion Jusmag (Joint US Military Advisory Group) property in Fort Bonifacio.

"We are confident that the High Court would rule in our favor after two setbacks in the lower courts especially with the public outcry over widespread corruption in the military," said BCDA general counsel Arnel Paciano D. Casanova in a telephone interview. "We expect to evict them within the year and sell the property to raise funds that would implement the much delayed modernization program of the Armed Forces."

Casanova said that among the top military officers with houses in the property are former military chiefs of staff Diomedio Villanueva, Roy Cimatu and Benjamin Defensor; Gregorio Camiling and Ernesto Carolina; and Philippine National Police chief Gregorio Aglipay and Major Gen. Alfonso Dagudag.

The BCDA, which had been keen on disposing of the property for more than a decade, took the lead in the case last year after the Office of the Solicitor General got an adverse ruling from the Pasig Regional Trial Court and the Court of Appeals which upheld the titles held by the Southside Homeowners Association Inc. (SHAI), made up of the wives of retired military officers, on the 35-hectare property.

The BCDA has argued that SHAI was not qualified to purchase or hold the lands in question because the Constitution specified that only natural entities or individuals could hold land titles; that SHAI has not proven that Jusmag property has been released from military reservation; and that there was no evidence of their payment (at P30 per square meter to the Lands Management Bureau in October 1991 or five months before BCDA was formed to handle the disposition of former military bases.

Casanova said that the government has already rejected overtures from SHAI for a compromise deal to split 50-50 the projected proceeds of the sale of the disputed property located across some of the most expensive pieces of land in the country.

"If we sell the property for P8 billion and they get half, it would mean close to a P40-million windfall for the 106 officers in the property that they never owned. That would be scandalous," Casanova said.

He said the recovery of the Jusmag property was one of the recommendations made by the Feliciano Commission which undertook a probe of the complaints aired by the Oakwood mutineers which includes their gripes about retired officers overstaying in quarters reserved for active officers.

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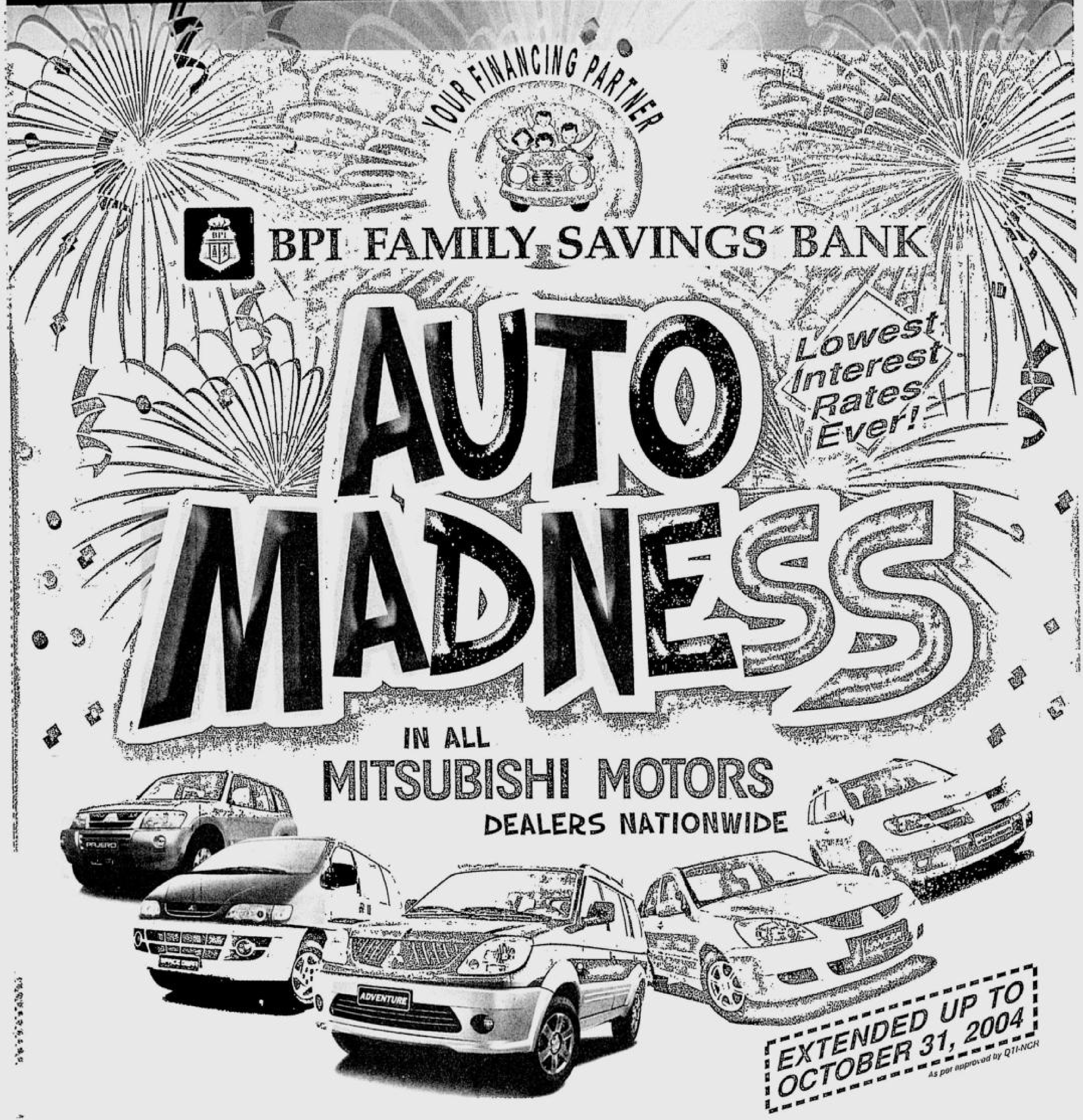
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2004 Lancer 1.6 GL M/T	658,000	78,700	27,576	19,646	15,755	13,817	12,532
2004 Lancer 1.6 GLX M/T	698,000	64,700	29,252	20,840	16,713	14,657	13,294
2004 Lancer 1.6 GLS CVT	758,000	68,700	31,767	22,632	18,149	15,917	14,437
2004 Lancer 1.6 MX CVT	838,000	85,700	35,120	25,020	20,065	17,597	15,961
2004 Adventure GL 2.5 Diesel M/T	675,000	101,250	28,289	20,154	16,162	14,174	12,856
2004 Adventure GLX 2.0 Gas M/T	700,000	85,000	29,336	20,900	16,760	14,699	13,332
2004 Adventure GLX 2.5 Diesel M/T*	740,000	111,000	31,013	22,094	17,718	15,539	14,094
2004 Adventure GLS Sport 2.0 Gas M/T	795,000	79,250	33,318	23,737	19,035	16,694	15,142
2004 Adventure GLS Sport 2.5 Diesel M/T	805,000	80,750	33,737	24,035	19,275	16,904	15,332
2004 Adventure GLS Sport 2.0 Gas A/T	848,000	107,200	35,539	25,319	20,304	17,807	16,151
2004 Adventure Grand Sport 2.5 Diesel M/T	935,000	105,250	39,185	27,917	22,387	19,634	17,808
2004 Adventure Grand Sport 2.0 Gas A/T	980,000	127,000	41,071	29,260	23,465	20,579	18,665
2004 Space Gear 2.4 Gas A/T	1,180,000	87,000	48,511	34,561	27,715	24,307	22,254
2004 Outlander 2.4 Gas AWD A/T	1,280,000	77,000	53,643	38,217	30,648	26,879	24,379

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Model	SRP	DP	24	36	48	60	72
2004 Lancer 1.6 GL M/T	658,000	319,000	15,294	10,896	8,738	7,663	7,155
2004 Lancer 1.6 GLX M/T	698,000	319,000	16,224	11,559	9,269	8,129	7,590
2004 Lancer 1.6 GLS CVT	758,000	341,000	17,619	12,552	10,066	8,828	8,243
2004 Lancer 1.6 MX CVT	838,000	389,000	19,478	13,877	11,128	9,760	9,113
2004 Adventure GL 2.5 Diesel M/T**	675,000	337,500	15,701	11,186	8,970	7,867	7,123
2004 Adventure GLX 2.0 Gas M/T**	700,000	350,000	16,317	11,625	9,323	8,176	7,403
2004 Adventure GLX 2.5 Diesel M/T*	740,000	337,000	17,200	12,254	9,827	8,618	8,047
2004 Adventure GLS Sport 2.0 Gas M/T	795,000	377,500	18,479	13,165	10,557	9,259	8,645
2004 Adventure GLS Sport 2.5 Diesel M/T	805,000	382,500	18,711	13,330	10,690	9,375	8,754
2004 Adventure GLS Sport 2.0 Gas A/T**	848,000	424,000	19,966	14,224	11,407	10,004	9,061
2004 Adventure Grand Sport 2.5 Diesel M/T	935,000	447,500	21,733	15,483	12,416	10,889	10,167
2004 Adventure Grand Sport 2.0 Gas A/T**	980,000	490,000	23,220	16,543	13,266	11,635	10,540
2004 Space Gear 2.4 Gas A/T**	1,180,000	590,000	24,583***	17,319	13,889	12,181	11,114
2004 Outlander 2.4 Gas AWD A/T	1,280,000	535,000	29,752	21,196	16,998	14,908	13,919

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Mondragon; 86

LAPULAPU Demeterio Mondragon of Leyte and Cebu City passed away on Oct. 23 at the age of 86.

He is survived by his wife Ligaya Arriola Mondragon; children Fe, Eric and Justice, and Gemma and Efren; grandchildren Ron, Bernadette and Chris Tiu, Raphael and Tina Mondragon, Regina Lila Cabrera and Noelle Zamora.

His youngest daughter, Tata, passed on earlier. He will be laid to rest in Cebu City.

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The placards with slogans are miniature but there is nothing small about the message that these housewives are trying to bring to the Department of Trade and Industry during yesterday's rally organized by the militant women's group Gabriela. The protest rally in front of the DTI office in Makati was held to protest soaring prices of basic commodities. REUTERS

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Amoxicillin cap. 250 mg	✓	2.60	8.95	6.35/cap
Amoxicillin cap. 500 mg	✓	3.70	15.75	12.05/cap
Amoxicillin susp. 250 mg/5 ml, 60 ml	✓	45.10	144.00	98.90/bot
Ampicillin cap. 500 mg	✓	6.50	14.15	7.65/bot
Chloramphenicol cap. 500 mg	✓	3.20	37.75	34.55/cap
Chloramphenicol susp. 125 mg/5 ml 60 ml	✓	40.40	394.75	354.35/bot
Co-trimoxazole tab (TM-160mg SMZ-800mg)	✓	2.30	26.00	23.70/tab
Co-trimoxazole cap. (TM-80mg SMZ-400mg)	✓	2.60	14.80	12.20/cap
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Carbocisteine susp. 100 mg/5 ml, 60 ml	✓	32.70	87.25	54.55/bot
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Corrections

IN THE OCT. 17 issue, a Sunday Lifestyle article on Page F2—"Women of the year"—incorrectly attributed a distinction to Dr. Raquel B. del Rosario-Fortun. She is not the first woman pathologist in the country. Fortun believes the distinction belongs to Dr. Maria Paz Mendoza Guanzon, who wrote a research paper on "bangungot" in 1917. Guanzon became the first professor of pathology and bacteriology at the University of the Philippines in 1927-1933.

* * *

IN THE OCT. 21 issue, a news story on Page A3—"It will be QC jail for Atong Ang"—misstated that ousted President Joseph Estrada was arrested in January 2001. Estrada was arrested in April 2001.

* * *

Readers may send their requests for correction of factual errors in writing to Gerry Lirio, city editor, Philippine Daily Inquirer, PDI Building, Chino Roces Avenue corner Mascardo Street, Makati City; fax Nos. 897-4793/94; e-mail addresses:glirio@inquirer.com.ph and daydesk@inquirer.com.ph.

Complaints about lack of fairness or objectivity may be sent to Raul Palabrica, readers' advocate, the same address and fax numbers as those of the city editor, and e-mail address:rpalabrica@inquirer.com.ph.

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Where does one learn of upcoming loan or technical assistance activities? Why is an Expression of Interest important? What should a proposal include?

The ADB and the Confederation of Filipino Consulting Organizations (COFILCO) will be sponsoring a two day seminar on the Development of Filipino Consulting Services on 11-12 November 2004 at the Astoria Plaza, J. Escriva Drive (formerly Amber Avenue), Ortigas Center, Pasig City.

The Seminar aims to help Filipino Consultants, both firms and individuals, gain access to the ADB market for consulting services. The Seminar will be comprised of a variety of lectures on ADB policies and procedures in the procurement of consulting services, starting from registration of consultants to the evaluation of technical and financial proposals and contract negotiations using the Quality and Cost-Based Selection (QCBS) method, the default mode of consultant selection adopted by ADB.

The Seminar will be capped by the presentation of COFILCO's Registration and Accreditation Systems, which Filipino consultants, both firms and individuals, have to comply with if they wish to pursue government-funded development projects. Accreditation of consultants has become mandatory as a result of the recent passage of *Republic Act No. 9184, The Government Procurement Reform Act*, and *Executive Order No. 278, Guidelines for Project Loan Negotiations and Packaging of Government Foreign-Assisted Infrastructure Projects*. Seminar participants will also be given copies of the recently approved *Standard Contract for Consulting Services*, which contains specific provisions for ADB, World Bank, and JBIC-funded projects.

The Seminar is open to all Filipino consulting firms and individuals at a fee of Four Thousand Pesos (P4,000) for those belonging to COFILCO member organizations and Four Thousand Five Hundred Pesos (P4,500) for non-members. The Seminar fee includes meals and snacks for two days and a conference kit containing relevant ADB information materials. A 10% discount will be applied on payments received on or before 2 November 2004.

Interested parties are requested to make reservations at the COFILCO Secretariat through:

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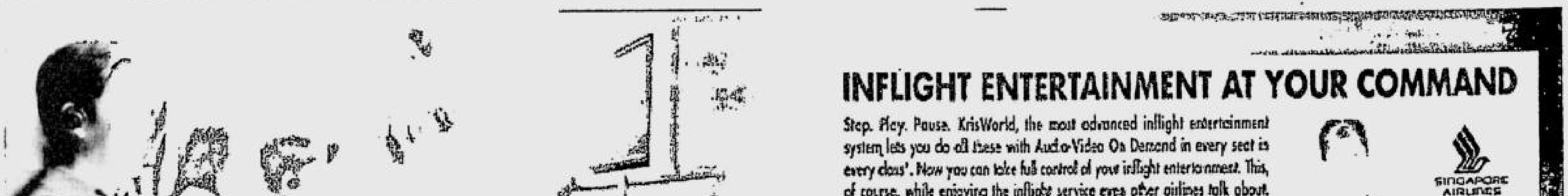
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Kuwait asked to stop Iraq-bound RP drivers

FOREIGN Secretary Alberto Romulo said yesterday he is asking Kuwait not to let Filipino workers in that country cross over to find work in Iraq due to the danger there.

"This is not the time to let Filipino drivers and other (overseas workers) go to Iraq because the situation is very fluid," he said, following Kuwait's decision last week to lift a ban against foreign workers crossing its border to Iraq.

Romulo had sent a note verbale to the Kuwaiti government to voice his concern over the implications of the Kuwaiti decision on the safety of Filipinos. He dispatched Ambassador Roy Cimatu to Kuwait to press for a reconsideration.

Romulo said yesterday that Iraq's other neighboring countries, including Saudi Arabia and Jordan, had been "holding so far" on the government's request to stop Filipinos from sneaking into the war-torn Iraq through their borders.

"It's their prerogative, but we're appealing to them [to maintain the ban] because of our experience, because of what's happening in Iraq," he said at a press briefing.

But another official, who asked not to be named, voiced fears that Kuwait's decision to lift the ban would set a precedent.

The official said that there was a growing consensus among Iraq's neighboring countries that it was Iraq's responsibility, not theirs, to man its borders and stop foreign workers from sneaking into its territory.

Romulo said he had directed Ricardo Endaya, charge d'affaires in Baghdad, to meet with his counterparts from other countries and "solidify their commitment" and if possible, hammer out an agreement to impose the ban.

"We're trying to get an agreement not to allow Filipinos to enter Iraq," he said.

Romulo appealed to other countries, including Kuwait, to hold the ban until after the national elections are held in Iraq in late January next year when the volatile situation is expected to stabilize.

"This is just temporary. The situation will ease up after the elections in January," he said. "After that, we can revisit Iraq."

The government imposed a ban on the deployment of workers to Iraq and requested Kuwait, Jordan and Saudi Arabia to stop Filipinos from crossing into Iraq in July after Filipino truck driver Angelo de la Cruz was taken hostage by Iraqi militants. *With an AP report*

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House waters down taxes; GMA meets tobacco men

From page A1

es on tobacco and alcohol to inflation, instead proposing a 3-percent rise in 2006 and 2007.

The committee also watered down a tax hike on tobacco and alcohol, a crucial measure to try to rein in the government's chronic budget deficit, raising concerns that vested interests were blocking economic reform.

A government proposal to bring some low-price brands of cigarettes and alcohol into a higher tax bracket was also omitted by the congressional committee.

Two months after Ms Arroyo warned of a fiscal crisis, the House ways and means committee voted to raise "sin" taxes on tobacco and alcohol by 20 percent next year—rather than the 30 percent requested by the government.

The watered-down bill can still be amended by the two houses of Congress, but critics were quick to accuse lawmakers of giving in to tobacco and alcohol firms.

"It's awful," said Solita Monsod, an economics professor at the University of the Philippines and a former government official. "A lot of them are captured by the cigarette and tobacco lobby."

The meeting on Monday night at Ms Arroyo's Forbes Park residence in Makati was attended by Philip Morris Philippines managing director Chris Nelson. Fortune Tobacco chair Lucio Tan sent his son Michael and brother Harry to the meeting.

A Malacañang source said San Miguel Corp. chair Eduardo "Danding" Cojuangco did not attend and did not send a representative because the tax charges on beer and other alcoholic drinks were less contentious than the taxes on cigarettes.

Bunye defended the meeting, saying "it is important for the President to explain the rationale of her policies and it is different when she explains it personally."

The Arroyo administration has to pass at least two revenue measures, specifically the sin tax, before the year ends to avert a credit downgrade that would pull the country deeper into a fiscal crisis.

"We are confident in the way the initial batch of tax measures is moving in Congress," Bunye said.

Urgent bill

The President yesterday certified as urgent House Bill No. 3174 which seeks to increase the specific taxes on alcohol and tobacco products.

Analysts say the government needs to act quickly to cut an annual budget deficit of nearly P200 billion or face a downgrade by international ratings agencies that would sharply raise the country's debt costs and the risk of a fiscal crisis.

Seven other revenue-raising steps proposed by the government have yet to be approved by Congress, and some of them are unlikely to be passed due to intense political opposition, raising doubts about how the government could meet its goal of increasing annual revenues by P80 billion, the equivalent of two-fifths of the current budget shortfall.

Against indexation

Monsod said the watering down of the bill on tobacco and alcohol "obviously goes against the entire principle of what was desired by the so-called indexation of the sin tax."

Revenue from tobacco and alcohol products had been steadily eroding in recent years because they were taxed on the basis of volume rather than value and were not linked to inflation.

Major players in the industry such as Fortune Tobacco have been lobbying against the government plan to raise taxes on low-price brands, making the most of their many allies in Congress.

"There is a danger if you tinker with classifications ... that you open it for debates and it might take months and years of lobbying and we won't get anywhere," said Jesli Lapus, chair of the ways and means committee.

Lapus said a 20-percent increase in sin taxes would raise around P7 billion in extra revenues next year. That is half the figure that some economists had estimated based on a 30-percent rise and full indexation.

Compromise formula

Ms Arroyo is, nevertheless, confident that Congress would pass a bill raising taxes on cigarettes and alcohol before the end of the year following her meeting with executives of Fortune Tobacco and Philip Morris.

A Malacañang source said the President presented a compromise formula at the meeting that would appease both Fortune Tobacco and Philip Morris whose dispute on how to craft cigarette taxes had threatened to further stall the passage of the sin tax bill, which has been on the legislative agenda for the past seven years.

The source said the proposed compromise formula would increase the sin taxes by 12 percent plus a 40-centavo hike next year, and by 3 percent from 2006 to 2010.

The compromise combines the conflicting demands of the rival cigarette makers for a percentage increase (that favors Fortune Tobacco's low priced brands) and flat rate hike across the board (that favors Philip Morris' premium brands). The two companies control 90 percent of the domestic tobacco industry. *With reports from AFP and Reuters*

Matillano getting ...

From page A1

Matillano yesterday told the INQUIRER, referring to the rough amount that he will supposedly receive when he retires next month from the Philippine National Police.

According to two top PNP officials, P3 million is small potatoes for an official like Matillano because the alleged *"pabaon"* system for retiring generals of the Armed Forces is also SOP in the 115,000-strong police force.

Matillano will reach the mandatory retirement age of 56 on Nov. 30. The date signals the end of a colorful, if checkered, career in law enforcement that began when he graduated from the Philippine Military Academy in 1971.

He will be replaced as PNP director for investigation and detective management by Chief Supt. Reynaldo Varilla, the current police director of Calabarzon.

Matillano said that following retirement protocol, the lump sum due him would "most likely reach P3 million."

The computation is based on his length of service, first in the defunct Philippine Constabulary and later in the PNP.

If indeed Matillano stands to receive that amount, it's "very cheap" considering that other retiring top officials were "sent off" with hefty retirement packages, a senior PNP official said.

"Send-off money" amounts to at least P5 million, said the source, who has held a number of key posts connected with the PNP Office for Comptrollership.

Another top official said the "pabaon" system has been in force since the PNP was established in the early 1990s. He said the money was pooled from the budget allocated for the PNP chief's command reserve, personnel services (or salaries) and fund conversion.

Per the source's account, there are two ways to finance the send-off package—either crafty members of the "comptroller family" make daily "savings" from cuts in the PNP budget, or the retiring official makes a "very big cut" at the end of his term.

"What's happening at the AFP has also been happening at the PNP. There's no difference," the source told the INQUIRER, referring to the alleged practice in the military of rewarding retiring chiefs of staff with at least P100 million.

However, former AFP Chief of Staff Dionisio Santiago and his predecessors have vehemently denied the practice.

Matillano was silent when asked about the alleged "pabaon" system in the PNP. He merely said that he stood to receive around P3 million on his retirement.

His stance may raise eyebrows in view of the fact that the PNP's Internal Affairs Service is now investigating him for allegedly keeping a Jaguar luxury sedan confiscated from a suspected drug trafficker.

Another source of controversy is the fact that he used to head the Criminal Investigation and Detection Group, where some agents had long been suspected of working as "bagmen" for certain ranking officials in *"jueteng"* collections.

With four weeks to go in his police career, Matillano will also be remembered for being part of the bloody coup attempts against the Aquino administration in the late 1980s.

Ugly conflicts

More than a decade later, he figured in ugly conflicts with now Sen. Panfilo Lacson, his classmate at the PMA. (Also among his "mistahs" is Maj. Gen. Carlos Garcia, who is being investigated for unexplained wealth.)

Caroline cheers ...

From page A1

to as many people as you can."

Deeply touched, Princess Caroline nodded and then bowed her head to acknowledge the request. She was a picture of humility, shunning a handcrafted chair borrowed for the royal visit. Instead, the princess sat with the children in the middle of the church's front pew.

Her visit, as president of Amade Mondiale (World Association of Children's Friends), proved she does not shirk from dealing with sensitive environmental and political issues like toxic waste contamination and its effects on young people, said Myrla Baldonado of the Alliance of the Bases Cleanup (ABC).

Lawyer Eric Mallonga, president of Amade Philippines, said that Princess Caroline had written US President George W. Bush in 2002, seeking compensation for the victims of toxic waste contamination, as well as a cleanup of former US bases at Clark and Subic.

Child toxic warrior

The princess had read stories about 6-year-old Crizel Jane Valencia, who passed away on Feb. 25, 2000, from acute myelocytic leukemia. She was one of hundreds, mostly children, whose illnesses have been linked to toxic contamination left by the US military at its former bases in the Philippines.

When she died aboard the Greenpeace ship "Rainbow Warrior," Crizel achieved international acclaim as an artist and witness for environmental justice. From her home in Clark, she drew cheerful cards to raise funds for her own treatment and that of others affected by the toxic waste. Not simply the "victim" of a toxic legacy, Crizel has been called the "child toxic warrior" whose memory continues to fuel the struggle for a cleanup.

Mallonga said the spirit of Crizel inspired and continued to inspire Princess Caroline in helping young toxic waste victims.

He added that Amade and ABC had brought the toxic cleanup issue to the United Nations. Hopefully, the international body would be able to pressure the US government into complying with international environmental standards by ridding the former bases of the harmful pollutants.

Undocumented deaths

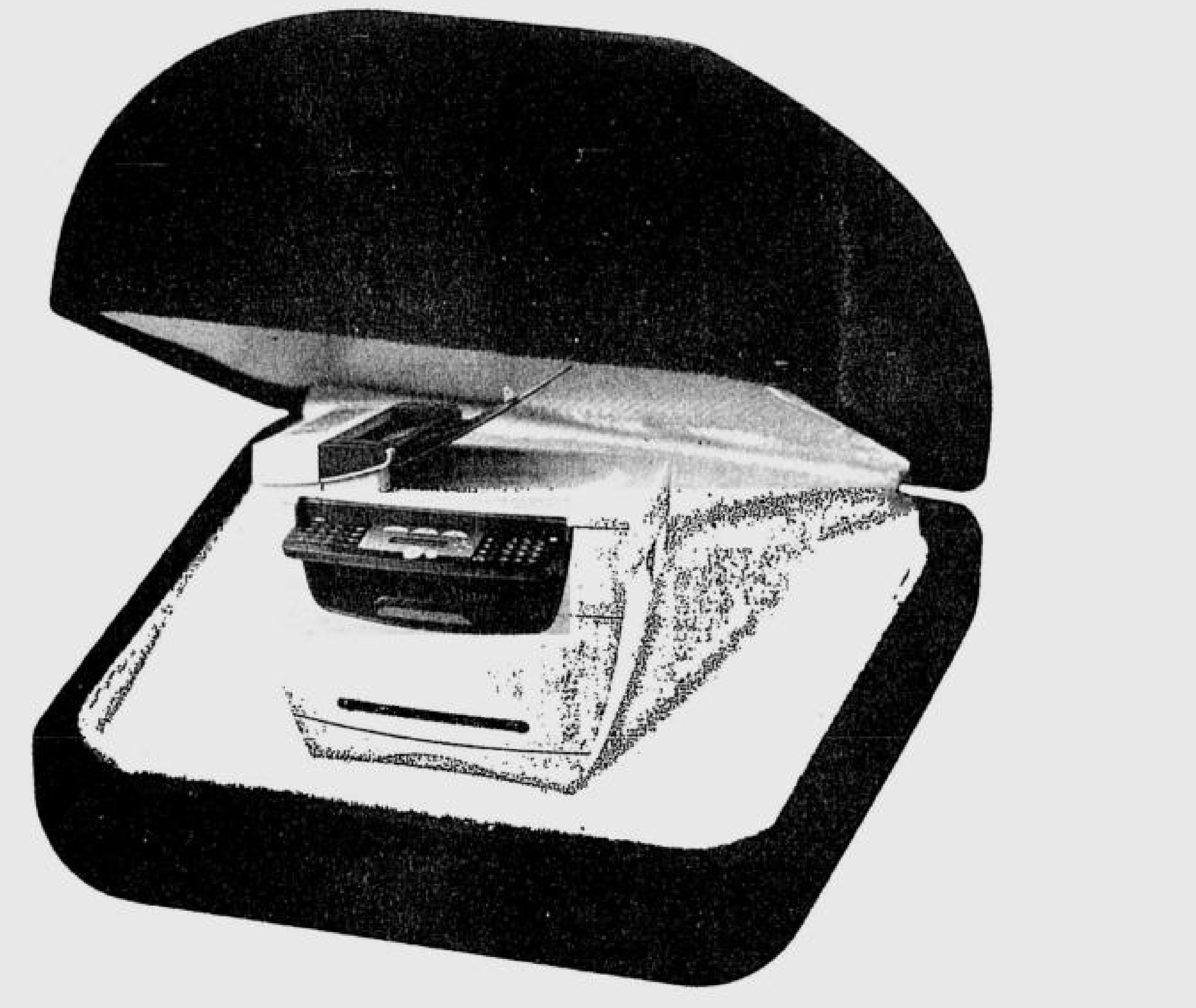
Clark, Subic and other smaller US bases were closed in September 1991 following the Senate's rejection of the extension of the 1947 RP-US military bases agreement.

"But the children should not be neglected and abandoned in the face of this malicious dumping," Mallonga said.

The United States, he said, should "respond positively" to the cleanup campaign to prevent more children and adults from getting sick.

Government-funded studies showed that Clark and Subic had 38 and 43 sites, respectively, at various but mostly serious levels of contamination, ABC's Baldonado said.

The People's Task Force for Bases Cleanup monitored more than 300 deaths, mostly due to leukemia and digestive, reproductive and heart problems. There had been more undocumented deaths in communities on the periphery of the bases, she added. *With a report from Allan Macatuno, PDI Central Luzon Desk*



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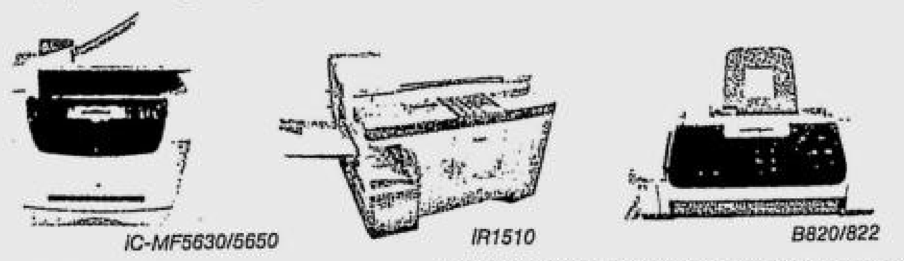

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FAMILY PLANNING

When 'natural' is unnatural

By Blanche S. Rivera

NATURAL family planning may be unnatural, after all.

An expert said yesterday that NFP, which the government is promoting, is very difficult for Filipino couples to practice because of the physiological sacrifice and behavioral change it requires.

Ric Gonzales, medical adviser of The Social Acceptance Project-Family Planning (TSAP-FP), said that NFP compels couples to abstain from sexual intercourse at a time when the body is craving for it.

Gonzales, a gynecologist and former director of the Fabella Hospital and the East Avenue Medical Center, said that a woman's body wants sex precisely during the fertile period.

"During this fertile period, women are prepared for a good sexual intercourse... and what NFP is saying is to abstain from having sex during this time," Gonzales said.

"It is unfair to NFP to call it unnatural. To avoid being confrontational, I use the term unphysiological," he said.

Gonzales, however, was quick to say that on the other hand, this abstinence tends to bond couples because it allows them to "enter into a state of negotiations."

"If you do NFP, couples are allowed to have sex when the woman is unprepared for it. That's why it is important for males during this safe period to be romantic with their wives," he said.

Less than one percent of couples practice NFP. About 42 percent of Filipinos use contraceptives while some 2.5 million women do not use any family planning methods even if they say they want to space their births or limit the number of children.

The National Health and Demographic Survey last year showed that only 27 percent of women know when their fertile period is.

"This is an issue that is very important for NFP. Most women cannot predict their cycle. If they don't know their cycle, they can't identify their fertile period, and this is important for abstinence," Gonzales said.

The TSAP, a major undertaking of the US-AID-funded Academy for Educational Development, is working with the Department of Health and other reproductive health advocates on the family planning hotline.

Gonzales noted that many of the questions from the hotline callers concerned fertility awareness. Some of the callers were males who did not want to get their partners pregnant.

DOH medical specialist Lourdes Paulino, officer-in-charge of the DOH Office on Women's Health, said that contraceptives were for couples who could not abstain all the time.

She said that the DOH door-to-door family planning campaign set early next year would focus on fertility awareness, especially among women in the rural areas.

Health Secretary Manuel Dayrit has said that the Arroyo government stands pat on its decision to promote NFP and recognize artificial methods.

Dayrit said that family planning should be seen by Filipinos as part of responsible parenthood and not as a means to control population.

Cebu prosecutors told to stay put

By Philip C. Tubeza

JUSTICE Secretary Raul Gonzalez yesterday rejected the bid of Cebu prosecutors handling the murder case of lawyer Arbet Sta. Ana-Yongco to back out of the case.

Gonzalez said he rejected the move of City Prosecutor Cezar Tajanlangit and Assistant Regional State Prosecutor Vicente Mañalac to withdraw from the case since this would set a bad precedent.

"I will not allow that. If every prosecutor inhibits himself because of criticism, no prosecutor would be left. This is not a good precedent," Gonzalez said.

Tajanlangit and Mañalac had asked the Department of Justice to send to Cebu a special prosecution team to handle the case to avoid being accused of being biased in favor of the suspect, Michael Favila, a member of the Philippine Benevolent Missionaries Association (PBMA), headed by cult leader Ruben Ecleo Jr.

However, Gonzalez said he wanted the case to proceed in Cebu with the prosecutors handling it. He said he would just send a state prosecutor from Manila to monitor developments.

Tajanlangit and Mañalac announced their plan to withdraw on Saturday, a day after lawyer Gloria Dalawampu, who was handpicked by the Bacolod family to take over from Yongco as private prosecutor in the Ecleo parricide case, also withdrew from the case against the alleged gunman in the Yongco murder case.

At the time of her death, Yongco was the private prosecutor in the parricide case against Ecleo for the murder of his wife, Alona Bacolod-Ecleo, fueling allegations that Ecleo had a hand in her murder.

Yongco, 37, was shot four times by a lone gunman at around 8:45 a.m. of Oct. 11 at her office, located at the ground floor of her house in Barangay Zapatera, Cebu. She died a few minutes later at the Perpetual Succor Hospital.

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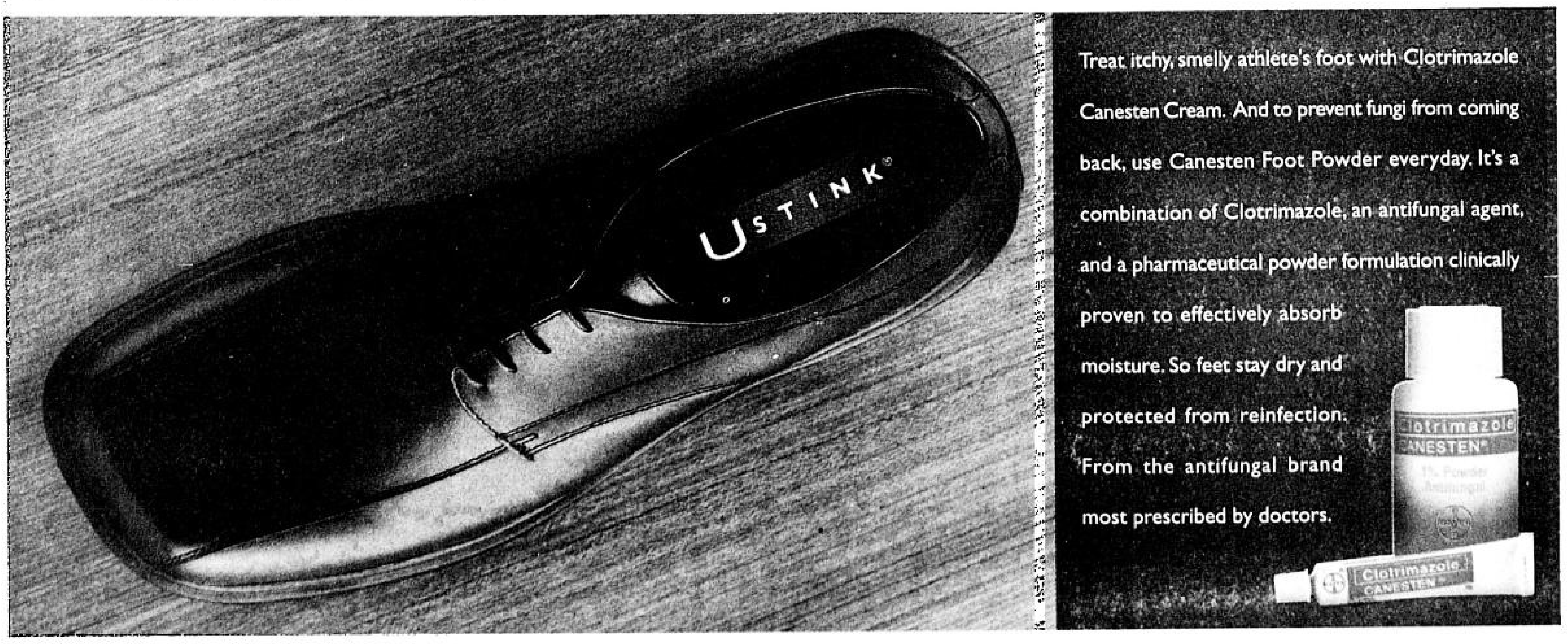
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Malacca Straits pirates release 2 RP seamen

By TJ Burgonio

THE TWO Filipino seamen who were seized from their tugboat and taken hostage by pirates in the Malacca Straits early this month were released last week, Foreign Secretary Alberto Romulo announced yesterday.

Paterno Dionaldo and Sofronio Lacno, captain and chief engineer, respectively, of the MV Erna, were freed following negotiations between their employer, Singapore-based Kasel Salvage Pte. Ltd., and their captors.

Romulo said the two had talked to their families in Manila following their release.

"Captain Dionaldo and engineer Lacno said they were a bit shaken, but otherwise were doing well," Romulo said in a press briefing.

He said he was not aware if ransom had been paid by their employer which handled the negotiations.

After their release, Dionaldo and Lacno were placed under the custody of the marine police in Belawan, Indonesia, and then handed over to the Indonesian-based agents of Kasel Salvage.

"They are now in a hotel in Medan, Indonesia, and are being prepared to be flown to Singapore where the headquarters of Kasel is located. They are expected to arrive in Singapore today," Romulo said.

Heavily armed pirates boarded the Erna on Oct. 2 at 6:20 p.m. The tugboat was towing a crane barge through the straits when the pirates attacked.

The next day, another group of pirates attacked the tugboat but nobody was hurt. The eight other Filipino crew members of the tug were flown home to Manila.

Romulo expressed gratitude to Singapore, Indonesia and Malaysia for helping secure the release of the hostages.

"I also reiterate the Philippine government's commitment to increase cooperation with our Southeast Asian neighbors to combat piracy and make our sea lanes safer and more secure to enhance maritime cooperation and international trade," he said.

THE DAILY GOSPEL

Wednesday, October 27, 2004
30th Week in Ordinary Time
1st Reading: Eph 6:1-9
Gospel: Lk 13:22-30

Jesus went through towns and villages teaching and making his way to Jerusalem. Someone asked him, "Lord, is it true that few people will be saved?"

And Jesus answered, "Do your best to enter by the narrow door, for many, I tell you, will try to enter and will not be able. When once the master of the house has got up and locked the door, you will stand outside; then you will knock at the door calling: 'Lord, open to us.' But he will say to you: 'I do not know where you come from.'

Then you will say: We ate and drank with you and you taught in our streets! But he will reply: 'I don't know where you come from. Away from me all you workers of evil.'

You will weep and grind your teeth when you see Abraham and Jacob and all the prophets in the kingdom of God, and you yourselves left outside. Others will sit at table in the kingdom of God, people coming from east and west, from north and south. Some who are among the last will be the first, and others who were first will be last!"

Commentary

In reply to a student who asked him how to study, St. Thomas Aquinas wrote a wonderful booklet. In one passage he distinguished between "curiosity" and "studiosity."

"How many will be saved?" the disciples of Jesus wanted to know. He didn't answer their question. Instead he told them how they themselves might be saved. Similarly when he was talking about the destruction of the Temple, all they wanted to know was, "When is it going to happen?" (Mt 24:3). He didn't answer that question either. "How can this man give us his flesh to eat?" (Jn 6:52). No answer. "How can a man be born when he is old?" Nicodemus asked (Jn 3:4). No answer. There must be a message in that.

No doubt curiosity is a good thing; cattle sheep and pigs have hardly any. It makes us different from them, open somehow. But we limit ourselves if we are never more than curious about anything, if we try to keep everything "out there," not affecting ourselves in any practical way. Then it is a refusal of "studiosity": depth and wisdom. It is better to curb it then: not in order to close that gap that separates us from the beasts, but in order to open our spirit in a still deeper way. Jesus ignored questions that came from mere curiosity.

He responded to the question by saying what we should do to be saved. He said it is a narrow door. If he had said, "It's dead easy, don't worry, relax," no one, or very few, would consider it worth lifting a finger for. Anything that comes cheap, or for nothing, must be worthless. Anything of real value requires everything of us.

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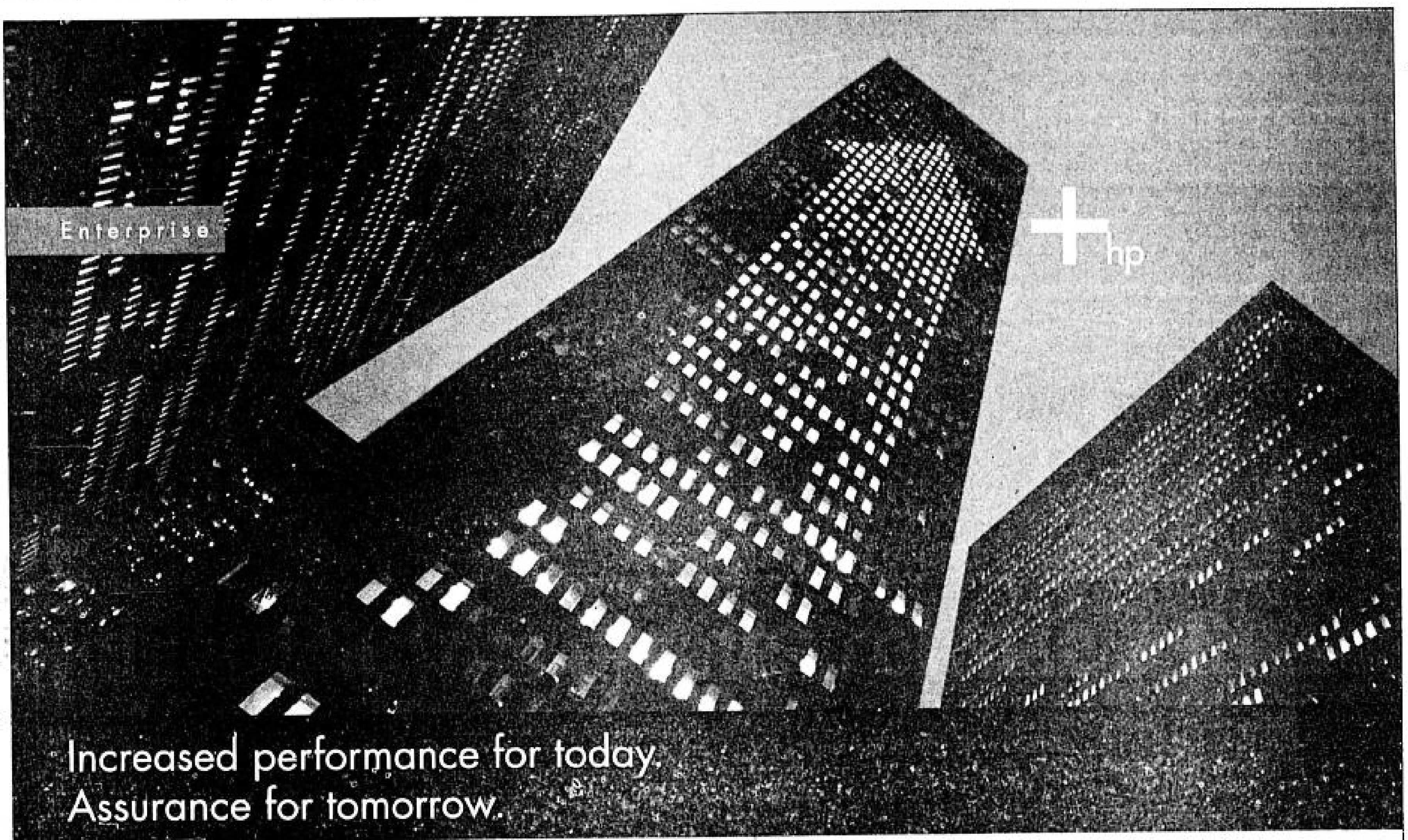
SUPREME COURT DOCTRINES

CRIMINAL LAW (AGGRAVATING CIRCUMSTANCES)—Abuse of superior strength)—The aggravating circumstance of abuse of superior strength necessitates a showing of the relative disparity in the physical characteristics of the aggressor and the victim such as age, gender, physical size and strength. The killing of Rosemarie was committed with abuse of superior strength. As found by the court a quo, two grown-up men against a young fragile woman whose ability to defend herself had been effectively restrained revealed a shocking inequality of physical strength. The victim was much weaker in constitution and could not have possibly defended herself from her stronger assailants. Such disparity was manifest in the contusions in the chest and hands, wounds on the fingers, a stab wound on the left side of the face and multiple fractures in the ribs of the victim. The abuse of superior strength was obvious in the way Rosemarie was mercilessly beaten to a pulp. The killing of Rosemarie was thus correctly qualified to murder by the abuse of superior strength, a circumstance specifically pleaded in the information and proved beyond reasonable doubt. [Citations omitted.] [En Banc, Justice Corona, People vs Dacillo, G. R. No. 149368, April 14, 2004]

BY R. B. VERA



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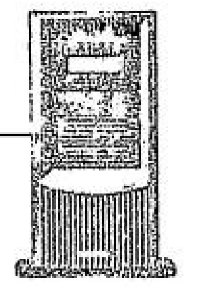

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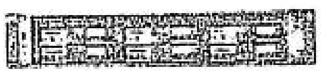

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SINGAPORE AIRLINES

The WORLD

Editor Luverne B. Gueco

UN: Iraqi rebels may have missing weapons

VIENNA—The UN nuclear agency has warned that insurgents in Iraq may have obtained nearly 400 tons of missing explosives that can be used in the kind of car bomb attacks that have targeted US-led coalition forces for months.

Diplomats questioned why the United States didn't do more to secure the former Iraqi military installation that had housed the explosives, which they say posed a well-known threat of being looted. Others criticized the United States for not allowing full international inspections to resume after the March 2003 invasion.

US officials played down the significance of the missing weapons, but Democratic presidential hopeful John Kerry accused US President George W. Bush of "incredible incompetence" and his campaign said the administration "must answer for what may be the most grave and catastrophic mistake in a tragic series of blunders in Iraq."

International Atomic Energy Agency chief Mohamed ElBaradei reported the disappearance to the UN Security Council on Monday, two weeks after he said Iraq told the nuclear agency that 377 US tons of explosives had vanished from the al-Qaqaa facility south of Baghdad as a result of "theft and looting... due to lack of security."

Al-Qaqaa is near Youssifiyah, an area rife with ambush attacks. An Associated Press Television News crew that drove past the compound Monday saw no visible security at the gates of the site, a jumble of low-slung, yellow-colored storage buildings that appeared deserted.

"The most immediate concern here is that these explosives could have fallen into the wrong hands," IAEA spokesperson Melissa Fleming said.

The agency first placed a seal over al-Qaqaa storage bunkers holding the explosives in 1991 as part of UN sanctions that ordered the dismantlement of Iraq's nuclear program after the Gulf War.

IAEA inspectors last saw the explosives in January 2003 when they took an inventory and placed fresh seals on the bunkers, Fleming said. Inspectors visited the site again in March 2003, but didn't view the explosives because the seals were not broken, she said.

Nuclear agency experts pulled out of Iraq just before the US-led invasion later that month, and have not yet been able to return for general inspections despite ElBaradei's repeated urging that they be allowed to finish their work. Although IAEA inspectors have made two trips to Iraq since the war at US requests, Russia and other Security Council have pressed for their full-time return—so far unsuccessfully.

US defense department spokesperson Bryan Whitman said US-led forces searched the al-Qaqaa facility after the invasion.

"Coalition forces were present in the vicinity at various times during and after major combat operations," he said. "The forces searched 32 bunkers and 87 other buildings at the facility, but found no indicators of WMD (weapons of mass destruction). While some explosive material was discovered, none of it carried IAEA seals."

IAEA analysts since have viewed satellite photographs of al-Qaqaa, and only two storage bunkers showed damage that may have occurred in bombing during the war, an agency official said. The other bunkers were intact, and the photos showed no evidence of a crater that would have been created if bombing runs had caused the explosives to blow up, the official said.

Saddam Hussein's regime used al-Qaqaa as a key part of its effort to build a nuclear bomb. Although the missing materials are conventional explosives known as HMX and RDX, the Vienna-based IAEA became involved because HMX is a "dual use" substance powerful enough to ignite the fissile material in an atomic bomb and set off a nuclear chain reaction.

Both are key components in plastic explosives such as C-4 and Semtex, which are so powerful that Libyan terrorists needed just 0.45 kg to blow up Pan Am Flight 103 over Lockerbie, Scotland, in 1988, killing 170 people.

Insurgents targeting coalition forces in Iraq have made widespread use of plastic explosives in a bloody spate of car bomb attacks. Officials were unable to link the missing explosives directly to th recent car bombings, but the rev lations that they could have falle into enemy hands caused a stir i the last week of the US presidenti campaign.

"How did they fail to secu nearly 380 tons of known, dead explosives despite clear warning from the International Atom Energy Agency to do so?" seni Kerry adviser Joe Lockhart said i a statement.

"These explosives can be used t blow up airplanes, level building attack our troops and detonate nuclear weapons," Lockhart sai "The Bush administration kne where this stockpile was, but too no action to secure the site."

White House press secreta Scott McClellan said the admini tration's first concern wa whether the disappearance co stituted a nuclear proliferatio threat. He said it did not. A

Clinton, Kerry gang up on Bush

WASHINGTON—Former President Bill Clinton and Sen. John Kerry ganged up on President George W. Bush on the campaign trail on Monday, with Clinton warning Bush wants to scare voters and Kerry slamming Bush's "incompetence" in not protecting tons of missing explosives in Iraq.

Bush, with former New York Mayor Rudolph Giuliani at his side, criticized Democrat Kerry's strategy of "pessimism and retreat" and told voters in Colorado that "in every critical respect, my opponent and I see the war on terror differently."

The potential balance of power on the Supreme Court moved front and center with news that Supreme Court Chief Justice William Rehnquist was diagnosed with thyroid cancer and is in the hospital after undergoing a tracheotomy.

Rehnquist, 80, the leader of the court's conservative majority, is expected back on the bench next week. But his illness reminded voters a new president could be asked to fill several vacancies of retiring justices on the closely divided court.

"We learned today that Justice Rehnquist is ill," Kerry told black ministers in a conference call. "We know that two or three justices will be retiring in the next years. The Supreme Court is at stake."

With eight days left in a neck-and-neck race for the White House, both sides pulled out the big political guns in a final bid to energize base supporters and attract undecided swing voters in the last few toss-up battleground states.

An enthusiastic and noticeably thinner Clinton, hitting the campaign trail seven weeks after heart bypass surgery, told thousands of cheering supporters in a downtown Philadelphia park that Bush was trying to scare them.

"The other side, they are trying to scare the undecided voters about Senator Kerry and they are trying to scare the decided voters away from the polls," Clinton said, adding, "their plan is more of the same" on lost jobs, lost health-care benefits and rising budget deficits.

"If one candidate is trying to scare you and the other is trying to get you to think, if one candidate is appealing to your fears and the other one is appealing to your hopes, you better vote for the one who wants you to think and hope," he said.

Kerry strategists hope Clinton can help energize Democratic base supporters, particularly black voters who will be crucial to pulling out a win in swing states like Pennsylvania, Ohio and Florida. Clinton headed to Florida after the Philadelphia rally for a solo appearance on Kerry's behalf.

"If this isn't good for my heart, I don't know what is," Clinton told the raucous crowd. *Reuters*

HISTORIC MEET

A worker cleans a statue of the God of Rome's famous Tiber river on the Campidoglio square, designed by Michelangelo, in Rome. On Friday in Rome, the Heads of State and Government and Foreign Ministers of 29 European countries will meet at the Campidoglio to participate in the ceremony of the signature of the Treaty and Final Act that will establish a Constitution for Europe. REUTERS

Rain, cold threaten Japan quake recovery efforts

OJIYA, Japan—More than 100,000 exhausted survivors of Japan's deadliest earthquake in a decade woke up in makeshift shelters for a third day on Tuesday as rain threatened to hamper relief efforts and trigger further landslides.

Aftershocks continued to rattle rural Niigata prefecture, 250 km north of Tokyo, after the first big tremor on Saturday that killed at least 25 people and injured more than 2,700. Three people, including two children, were missing.

Prime Minister Junichiro Koizumi was due to visit the area later in the day but called off a separate trip to a typhoon-stricken area of western Japan.

While the number and strength of aftershocks was starting to taper off, the authorities warned that it was still too early to relax and urged caution around quake-weakened buildings.

"I'm really tired. I want to get home and really rest," said a man at one evacuation center, where people had spent the night crammed together sleeping on the floor.

Saturday's initial earthquake, with magnitude of 6.8, was the deadliest in Japan since the Kobe earthquake killed more than 6,400 people in 1995, and reminded Tokyo's 12 million residents that they too are vulnerable to a major quake.

Tens of thousands of people have already spent three nights in evacuation centers or in the open as the temperature fell below 10 degrees Celsius.

The temperature was likely to fall further, with snow possibly mixing with rain in mountainous areas at night, a meteorological agency official said.

Many complained about a lack of food, but an official in Ojiya, the hardest hit town, told national broadcaster NHK that supplies were now sufficient. What was really needed, he said, were diapers, wet tissues and disinfectant.

Some slept in cars with engines running but many petrol stations were closed due to a lack of electricity to run pumps.

Others made the best of things by spending the night in a greenhouse to keep warm. Some camped in parking lots.

Rain was forecast to fall throughout much of the day and officials warned that could force more people to evacuate.

"Even a little rain at this point could really raise the danger of landslides," an official at an emergency center set up by the Niigata local government said.

As of Tuesday, the number of people evacuated had risen to 101,900, Kyodo news agency said.

A forecast fall in temperature below 10C raised concerns of health problems among the evacuees, many of whom are elderly. *Reuters*

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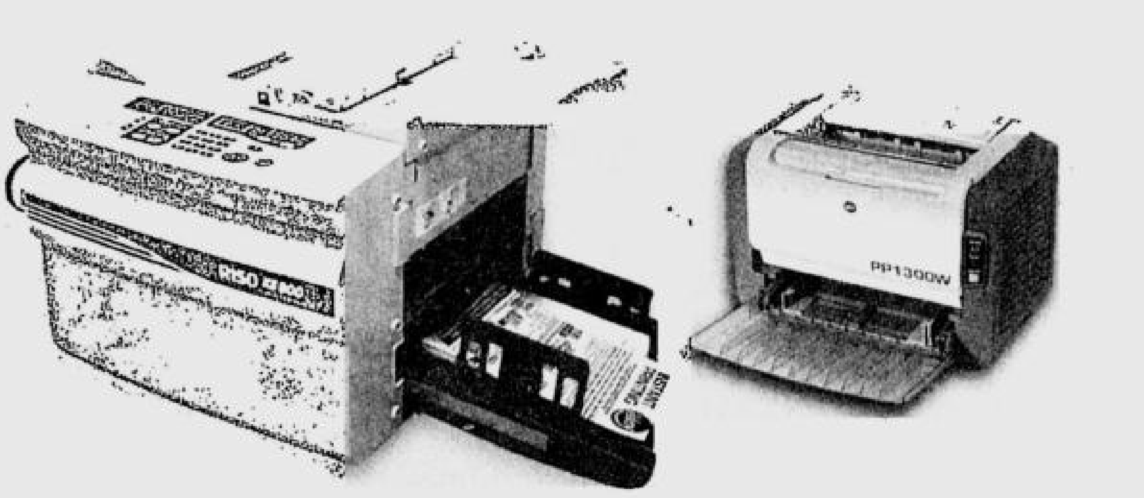

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South Korea tightens security after breach at border

DONGDUCHON, South Korea—South Korea mounted roadblocks and increased security along the Demilitarized Zone frontier with North Korea on Tuesday after a night patrol found a hole cut in a border fence, South Korean officials said.

A gap in the wire could mean North Korean agents had been infiltrated into the South on the day US Secretary of State Colin Powell was visiting Seoul and on the 25th anniversary of the assassination of South Korean President Park Chung-hee.

Yet South Korean financial markets barely reacted, and Powell took a relatively relaxed view, too.

"It did not come up in our discussions," he told reporters.

"I got word earlier this morning and we confirmed a few moments ago that there is an apparent small breach in the wire system coming south out of the DMZ and it's being looked into."

Security experts noted there were easier ways to sneak into the South than through a hole in the world's most fortified border. Yet, on the peninsula, where the Koreas face off with a combined 1.8 million troops, such incidents are taken seriously.

Extra armed soldiers and police inspected every truck and checked car drivers at established and new checkpoints north of Uijongbu, between Seoul and the border.

Armored vehicles stood at some roadblocks and machineguns could be seen on top of buildings in Dongduchon, where the US Army's 2nd Infantry Division is located. Further north, units searched the craggy mountains that cover much of the region.

A defense ministry spokesperson told reporters the South Korean military could, if necessary, mobilize reserve forces along the border, which has bisected the peninsula since the 1950-53 Korean War ended in a truce rather than a peace treaty.

"We are stepping up our security," said Hwang Jung-sun, the ministry's deputy director of operations. "We can't reveal details about the investigation for security reasons." *Reuters*

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Vatican lays out teaching against war, abortion

VATICAN CITY—A Vatican handbook has laid out Roman Catholic Church teaching questioning preventive war and denouncing the "horrendous crime" of abortion. But Vatican officials sidestepped questions on whether the war in Iraq was illegal or if Catholics can vote for candidates who back laws permitting abortion.

Vatican spokesperson Joaquin Navarro-Valls quickly intervened at a news conference Monday when a top Vatican cardinal was asked if the faithful can cast ballots for a candidate who supports legalized abortion. "The Holy See never gets involved in electoral or political questions directly," he said.

US Sen. John Kerry, the Democratic presidential candidate, is a Catholic who has said that while personally opposed to abortion, he upholds the right of women to have one.

Pope John Paul II has vigorously championed the Vatican's long-standing opposition to abortion, which was denounced as a "horrendous crime" in the Vatican document released Monday.

"Far from being a right, it is a sad phenomenon," it said.

Some US churchmen, such as St. Louis Archbishop Raymond Burke, have said Kerry should be denied the sacrament of Communion.

Navarro-Valls said bishops could, if they desired, weigh in on campaign issues to "illuminate the consciences of the faithful with ethical elements so they can make a judgment" in elections.

Officials at the news conference described the 524-page compilation of doctrine as a kind of handbook which could help business, political and cultural leaders.

Appearing to break no new ground, the volume quoted extensively from, and offered reflections on, writings and speeches by Pope John Paul II and previous pontiffs on matters including preventive war, terrorism, the death penalty, immigration, workers' rights, poverty, globalization, free markets and human rights.

Under the heading "legitimate defense," the compendium stated that "engaging in a preventive war without clear proof that an attack is imminent cannot fail to raise serious moral and juridical questions."

Arguing that the war in Iraq was necessary, the administration of US President George W. Bush said in the run-up to the conflict that Iraq harbored weapons of mass destruction. No such weapons have turned up.

In apparent reference to the United Nations, the document said "international legitimacy for the use of armed forces, on the basis of rigorous assessment and with well-founded motivations, can only be given by the decision of a competent body that identifies specific situations as threats to peace and authorizes an intrusion into the sphere of autonomy usually reserved for a state."

The former Vatican envoy to the United Nations, Cardinal Renato Martino, was asked if "in hindsight," the US-led war against Iraq would be "illegal" in the eyes of the church.

The cardinal replied: "Did you read the address of the Pope to President Bush? Read it again." *AP*

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New Indon leader may ban Jemaah Islamiyah

JAKARTA—Indonesia will outlaw an al-Qaida-linked group blamed for deadly bombings in Southeast Asia if its existence can be proved and that its members are involved in terrorist activities, the new president said.

In an interview with Time magazine, President Susilo Bambang Yudhoyono said he would review steps being taken to deal with terrorism and with the Jemaah Islamiyah group.

This review would include Islamic boarding schools suspected of having terror ties, he said.

His cautious comments on Jemaah Islamiyah may disappoint Western governments, who have no doubt about the network's presence in the world's most populous Muslim nation and who want the former general to confront terrorism head on.

"After the review, if there are explanations and proof that JI as an organization does exist in Indonesia, and if it is legally proven that its members are involved in terrorist activities, then it will be declared a banned organization," said Yudhoyono, who made fighting terror a campaign priority.

Yudhoyono gave no details on how Jemaah Islamiyah's existence would be proven, and whether it would require a court ruling.

His comments come two days before a militant cleric, Abu Bakar Bashir, faces trial on charges of leading Jemaah Islamiyah and involvement in the 2002 Bali blasts that killed 202 people and a strike at a luxury Jakarta hotel last year that killed 12.

Western countries and the United Nations have listed Jemaah Islamiyah as a terrorist organization. Banning the group would make it easier for Indonesia to make arrests and stem funding.

But the previous government, in which Yudhoyono was chief security minister until early this year, treaded carefully around the issue for fear of offending mainstream Muslims, partly because the term Jemaah Islamiyah in Indonesian means Islamic community.

While Islamic groups have grown increasingly outraged at bomb attacks and accepted they are being carried out by Indonesians, memories also remain fresh of the persecution of Muslim leaders and activists by former President Suharto during 32 years of military-backed rule that ended in 1998.

Officials have also kept a hands-off approach to several conservative Islamic boarding schools, where some convicted bombers have studied and radical views are propagated.

Yudhoyono made clear the issue was sensitive.

"This will require communication and the right approach so that law enforcement will not be misunderstood as the government doing something that is unfair toward certain individuals or religious schools," Yudhoyono said.

A number of Indonesian Jemaah Islamiyah members have been convicted over the Bali bombings, but courts then did not make a point of trying to prove the existence of Jemaah Islamiyah, which wants to set up an austere Islamic state across Muslim areas of Southeast Asia. *Reuters*

Howard sworn in for 4th term

CANBERRA—John Howard was sworn in Tuesday for his fourth term as Australia's prime minister at a ceremony in the official residence of the British queen's representative, Governor General Michael Jeffery.

Howard won an increased majority for his conservative coalition government at Oct. 9 elections at which the booming Australian economy took center stage.

The Howard administration took credit for driving down unemployment, inflation and interest rates during more than eight years in power and warned voters that Labor governments had a history of pushing interest rates higher.

A total of 30 ministers and 12 junior ministers known as parliamentary secretaries were sworn in by Jeffery.

Tuesday's ceremony was a reminder of Australia's links to the British monarchy, with ministers swearing allegiance to Queen Elizabeth II, the nation's formal head of state.

In December, the 65-year-old Howard will overtake Bob Hawke's record as the second-longest serving prime minister of eight years, nine months and 10 days.

The longest serving national leader was Sir Robert Menzies, founder of Howard's Liberal Party, who lasted more than 18 years.

Meanwhile, Labor leader Mark Latham announced Tuesday his so-called shadow Cabinet of lawmakers assigned to develop policies and challenge government ministers.

He made the surprise move of placing two former foes in key economic portfolios. Wayne Swan became shadow treasurer and Stephen Smith shadow minister for industry, infrastructure and industrial relations.

Both men supported Latham's rival for the Labor leadership, Kim Beazley, late last year.

Latham said Labor had to improve its economic policy performance before the next election.

"This is the area where, whether we like it or not, the Australian people made a judgment that our credentials weren't strong enough," Latham told reporters.

Both Swan and Smith guaranteed they would not challenge Latham's leadership during the next three-year term. *AP*

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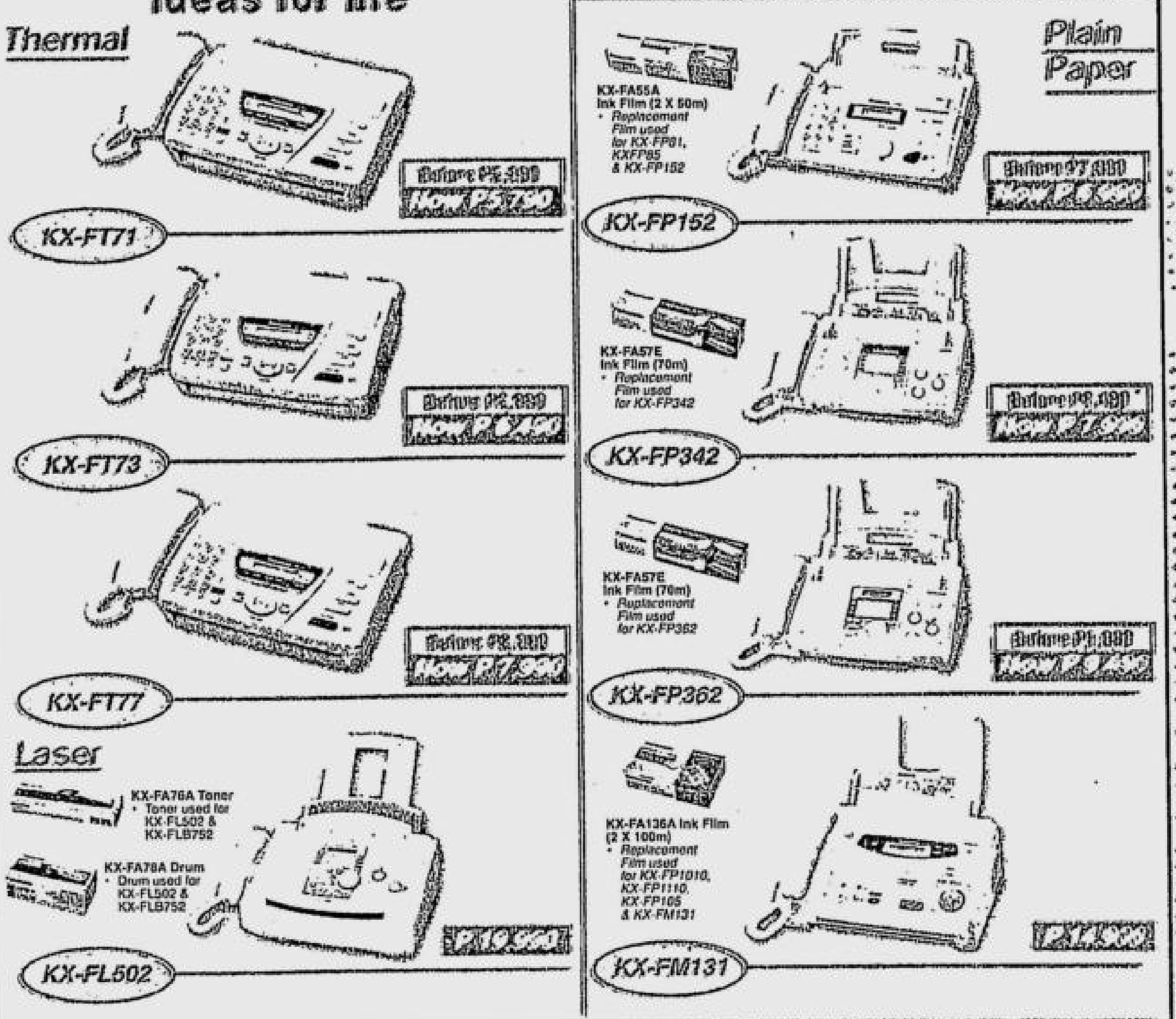
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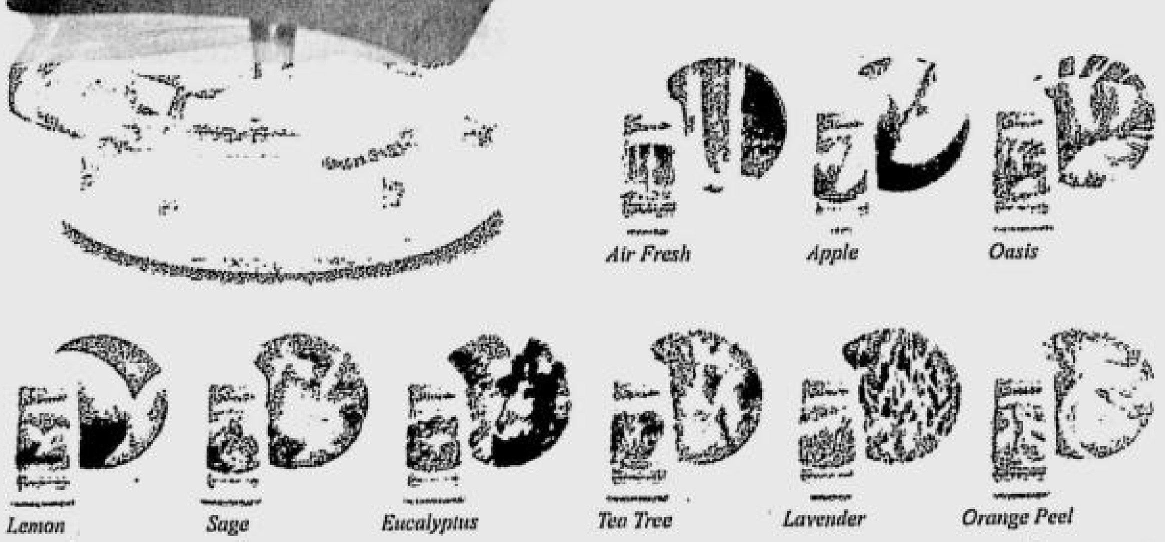

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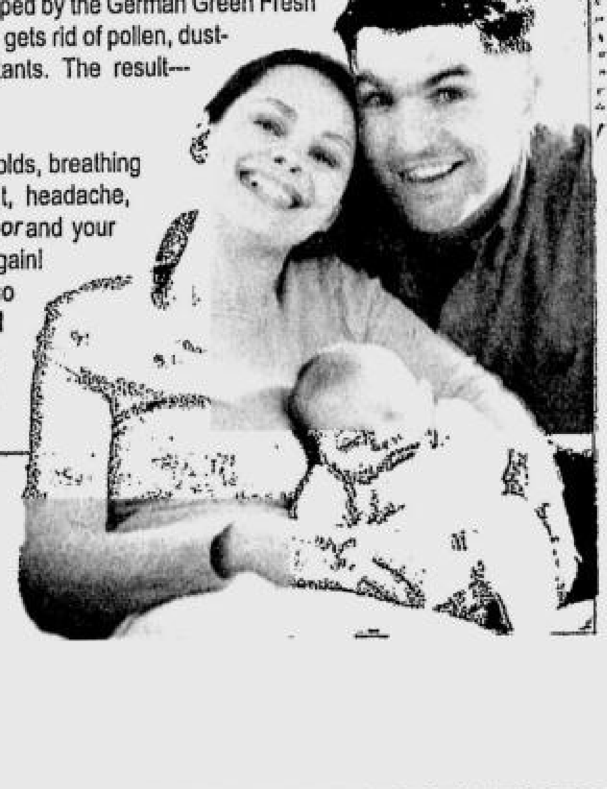

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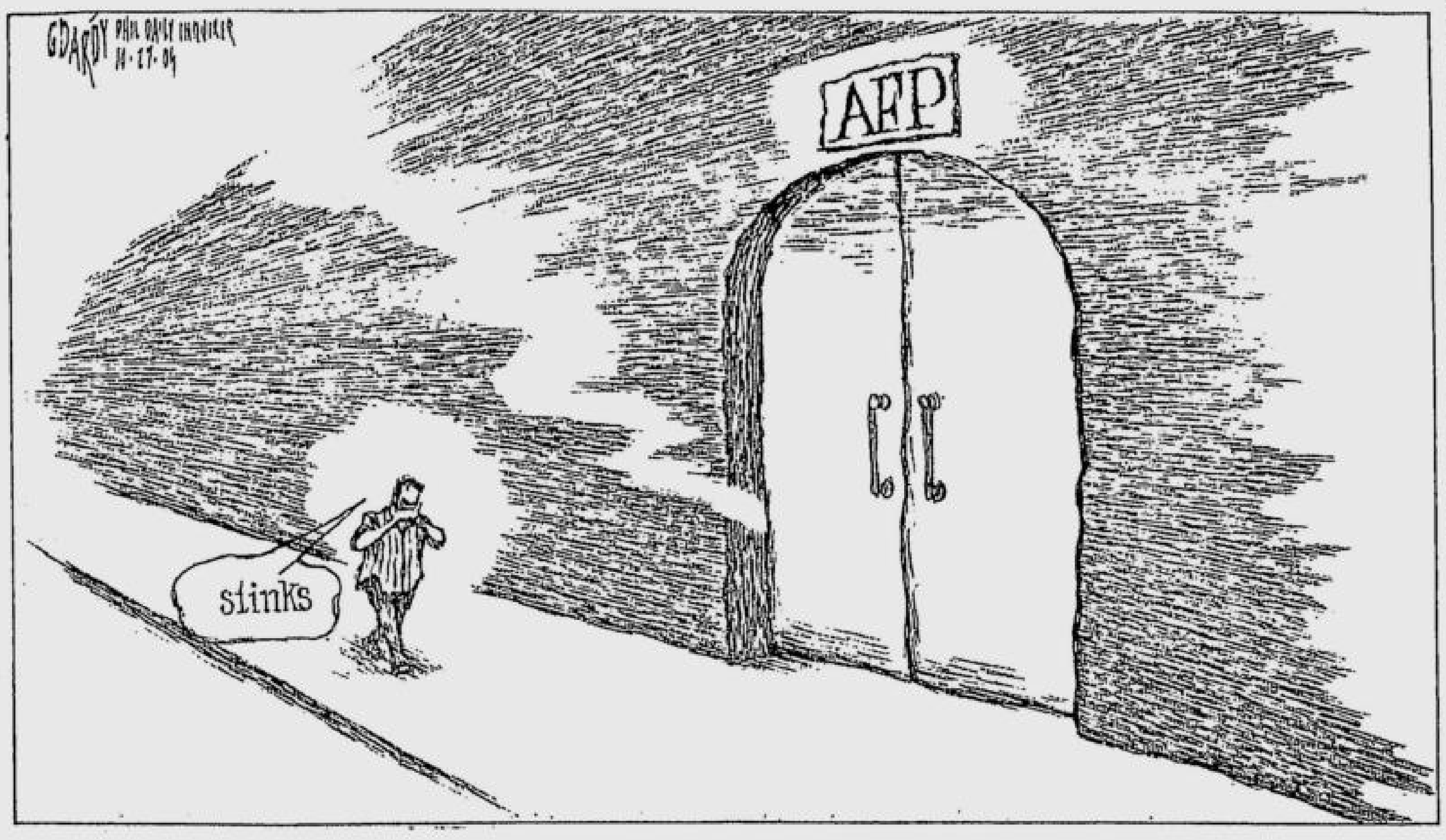


Consolation prize

EDITORIAL

WHEN Sen. Panfilo Lacson said, "I don't think the congressmen realize that what they are investigating is [Major Gen.] Carlos Garcia's version of their own pork barrel," he had a point. The point primarily involves perception, but it's also an institutional one. Lacson told the press: "Assuming the allegations against General Garcia are true—that he took commissions from suppliers—what makes the difference between a general receiving commissions from a congressman or a senator receiving commissions from suppliers and contractors? It's the same banana."

This is Lacson's point on perception: the public is not giving credit to the House of Representatives for looking into the accusations concerning Garcia. His institutional point is also fair: there is no difference, morally or, it can be argued, even legally, between a general skimming off the top and being on the take, and a legislator receiving commissions and bribes. Both represent people in authority violating their duties and acting irresponsibly. Both involve people on the public payroll breaking the law.

He also has a point in suggesting that his legislative colleagues "take a good look at themselves in the mirror before asking questions." But is it correct to suggest, as his statements imply, that Congress has no business mounting hearings on the Garcia case?

Congressional hearings are not part of the process of meting out justice. That is clear. Congress investigates only in aid of legislation. Does a hearing in aid of legislation include the congressional hearings that have taken on the characteristics of a fishing expedition?

A fishing expedition, in the sense used by media, is a hearing that attempts to trip up witnesses so that they will come up with information that incriminates either the witnesses or other people. It is a hearing undertaken not to verify facts for the purpose of arriving at informed legislation, but rather to come up with information for political purposes. If the congressmen, for example, who grilled Garcia had gotten him to confess, it would not have helped legislation, although it would certainly have made headlines and perhaps even helped the investigation into his actions.

However, only a court martial and the Office of the Ombudsman can actually do something about Garcia, and only (in the case of a court martial) after a trial by his peers or (in the case of the Ombudsman) a trial before a civilian judge. Congress in and of itself cannot mount either a criminal or administrative investigation or prosecution before the courts.

This is actually the essential point of Lacson's comments. It is a point that has been repeatedly made concerning Congress' use—and abuse—of its authority to hold hearings in aid of legislation. Lacson is fortunate that his colleagues in Congress have been tardy in pointing out the many ways their hearings could have actually aided legislation: for example, in amending the Articles of War, or in drafting a law putting the comptrollership of the Armed Forces in civilian hands, as has been suggested.

This only goes to show that Lacson's suspicion that his congressional peers are only interested in grandstanding, and not justice, might be true. It also serves to fortify the original points of Lacson.

But whether or not the House of Representatives didn't really mean to investigate in aid of legislation, the fact is, in however small a way, the hearings did help to show just how serious the case against Garcia is:

This has nothing to do with the fitness of individual legislators to make inquiries. Rooting out sinners does not require saints. Specifically, since the law is impersonal, its enforcement and operation do not require the enforcers to be law abiding. What it does mean is that the moral aspects of the law are subverted when insincerity and even guilt are suspected of those who try to wield the law.

This is where the concept of moral ascendancy comes in. The law would be much more effective if those who make the laws and enforce the laws are not suspected of ignoring the laws. As things stand, though, better crooks running after another crook, than no one running after crooks at all.

Down with irresponsible pet owners!

As I See It

Neal H. Cruz

WE routinely call the dog "man's best friend," but do you know that in Metro Manila, supposedly the most civilized in the country, thousands of dogs are put to death every day by—and this is shocking—city and municipal governments? In Makati alone, the nation's business capital where the super rich live, 1,800 dogs are euthanized every year. Perhaps as many are brutally killed and eaten in just one week in Baguio, the favorite vacation spot of the beautiful people. In Boracay, another favorite tourist spot, dogs were being shot dead on the beaches and the roads until the tourists protested.

Man's best friends are also being routinely shot by government employees in other towns and cities in other parts of the country. Even in cities governed by model mayors like Marikina, dogs are caught with nooses, kept in the city pound for a few days, and then gassed.

Many more suffer an even worse fate. They are sold by barangay officials to drunkards who kill them by clubbing them on the head, then butchering, cooking and eating them as *pulutan*during drinking sprees. In some cases, children have watched horrified as their elders gleefully stabbed or clubbed stray dogs to death then roasted the animals over a wood fire. Others are stolen from their owners and sold in the illegal dog black market, shipped, all trussed up or cramped together in wire cages, to the provinces where they are bludgeoned to death, butchered and cooked and sold openly and even advertised in restaurants and wet markets. That's how we treat "man's best friend."

And yet we have a law, Republic Act 8485 or the Animal Welfare Act of 1998 (AWA), that prohibits the maltreatment, killing and eating of dogs and other pets and animals not specifically raised for food. Penalty is imprisonment of not less than six months or more than two years or a fine of not less than P1,000 or more than P5,000, or both.

The maltreatment and killing of dogs and cats are being perpetrated openly everywhere, but have you heard of anybody being arrested and jailed for doing that? In fact, Cara Phils. (Compassion and Responsibility for Animals), an NGO, has documented cases where policemen and barangay tanods were the perpetrators of these heinous acts.

Ironically, the bond between man and dog go back 12,000 years. Since humans domesticated dogs, they are most happy when they are in our company. Their loyalty, love and trust are their gifts to us. There are many stories of dogs saving their masters' lives. The animals have been used as war dogs, working dogs, seeing-eye dogs, bomb- and drug-sniffing dogs, search dogs, etc. As pets, scientific studies have proven that they reduce loneliness, depression and stress. Medically, they have been introduced as companions to patients in hospital wards and in homes for the elderly all over the world.

So why are we being cruel to them and killing them? Because of ignorance and lack of compassion, primarily. And in the worst irony of all, because governments think they are doing a good deed in rounding them up and killing them. It is to prevent the spread of rabies, a deadly and almost always fatal disease spread by the bite of a dog and other mammals. The risk of rabies in the Philippines is the fourth highest in the world. And because the number of stray dogs is increasing due to many irresponsible owners, local governments believe they are reducing the risk of rabies by killing stray dogs.

This is wrong on two counts. First, a study made in 1998 showed that 95 percent of dog bites did not come from street dogs but from those which had owners. Dogs are territorial and street dogs have no territories. It is the pet dogs that protect their territories by aggressive behavior.

Second, killing dogs (and cats) will not reduce the stray population if we do not reduce the number of irresponsible pet owners. These owners allow their pets to breed indiscriminately and then give away the puppies and kittens in staggering numbers. More often, kittens are simply abandoned on sidewalks or vacant lots. These have hazardous lives, and are sometimes squashed by vehicles. Those that survive grow up by scavenging for food in garbage cans, wracked by disease and starvation, and breed more strays that, in turn, breed more.

Two unaltered dogs and their offspring can produce 67,000 dogs in six years. For cats, the number is much higher. There should be a law that punishes throwing away or abandoning kittens.

Filipinos usually take home puppies and kittens because they are cute. But once they grow up and cease to be cute and, worse, show signs of illness, they are turned out on the streets where they unwittingly compromise the health of the whole neighborhood.

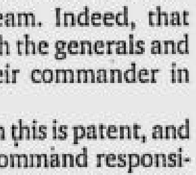
As Cara Phils. said, "In our country dogs provide an important sense of security. However, here we find the paradox of people who don't really like dogs and yet will keep them to guard their homes. As a rule, these people are neither caring nor responsible owners. It is these owners' dogs that are usually allowed to scavenge on the streets for food and routinely let out to urinate and defecate on public property. As a result, this human irresponsibility leads to these dogs creating a public health hazard."

For many in our country, the dog is viewed not as a companion but as a necessary evil, so that neither time nor money is invested in ensuring good health.

Since dogs and cats are treated as dispensable and replaceable commodities, the abandoning of sick or unwanted dogs and cats is done with impunity. Invariably a neighbor's dog or cat will also have puppies and kittens and these will be given away. So the cycle of irresponsible ownership continues.

Solutions

There's the Rub



Conrado de Quiros

WHAT'S astonishing about the sums the Armed Forces chiefs of staff have been playing around with like marbles is not just their size but their availability. Why this fortune should be theirs for the taking, only they, or those who approve their budget, can say.

I've been writing for all of my life, and I have yet to see a million pesos in one blow. I cannot look forward to retiring with just a million for my pains. I am not a regular employee and do not even get a 13th-month pay or regular bonus. So you will forgive me if my blood is aboil that the chiefs of staff get to retire routinely with P300 million as nest egg. Maybe the sums are an exaggeration. But you halve them, or reduce them by three quarters, and they are still a fortune to most of us.

What in God's name makes the chiefs of staff more important than the rest of us? They risk their lives in doing duty? Well, journalists, particularly the provincial ones, do the same thing, and more of them have been killed in the line of duty over the past months than generals. Some of them did not even have the means for a decent burial. More than this, if the Oakwood mutineers were to be believed, it's not the generals who put their asses on the line in the field, it's the junior officers and their men. The generals may only be found dashing off in helicopters to golf clubs in Zamboanga and elsewhere.

But if the generals have these sums to play around with, you wonder what the civilian officials have in their turn. No wonder the education department, which by law is entitled to the biggest budget (which isn't followed anyway, since the biggest slice goes to debt payments) has earned a reputation not for being the seat of enlightenment but for being the seat of corruption.

Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo and her officials have hastened to assure that a court martial of Carlos Garcia (what irony that he should be named after the Filipino president who launched "Filipino First," which Diosdado Macapagal, who came after him, promptly undid) will not wreck the AFP, it will strengthen it. It will strengthen it by cleansing it of its dregs. That presumes the muck ends with Garcia and doesn't flow upstream. Indeed, that presumes the muck ends with the generals and doesn't flow upward to their commander in chief.

As it is, GMA's culpability in this is patent, and not just by the principle of command responsibility. Her contribution to the corruption is direct. More immediately, it was her "revolving door" policy that made it possible. It produced four chiefs of staff in the same number of years, each one retiring with a *pabaon* that could ransom a dozen kidnapped Chinese. Either GMA turned a blind eye to the practice or she actively abetted it. The latter is not unthinkable, given that she came to power through extra-constitutional means and has been vulnerable to uprisings, military or not.

On a broader and deeper level—and this one bears repeating again and again—it was her "war against terror" that catapulted corruption in the military to breathtaking heights. Especially in the first year after 9/11, when she echoed George W. Bush's line of "you are with me or against me," no one could question what government did, least of all its military operations. To do so was to be held up in derision as a terrorist-coddler or accused of treason. Fighting terrorism justified everything, including the curtailment of due process.

It was the culture of secrecy and paranoia unleashed by the "war against terror" that made the shit hit the fan, or unbridled corruption to hit the barracks. Until the US invasion of Iraq came along to disillusion even Filipinos, the last bastion of George W's imperial ambition, the generals were pretty much untouchable. No, they were pretty much infallible—what they said was ex-cathedra.

What will strengthen the military today is not just the court martial of Garcia, though I'd be first to applaud if that should happen and is prosecuted with zeal. Who knows? Maybe Garcia would be persuaded to talk then, especially if a verdict of guilty carries with it not just a dozen push-ups but a dozen rifles lined up in a firing squad. But more than this, what will strengthen the military, or indeed the country itself, is GMA apologizing to the country for having dragged it down the drain with her military adventurism. A military adventurism that gave new lease on life on the praetorian mentality of the men in uniform and made mutinies, quite apart from runaway corruption, possible.

What will strengthen the military is reducing the size of the AFP to a level that matches national priorities and giving it only the budget it deserves. None of this means overlooking terrorism or neglecting national security. All of this means fighting terrorism in the only way that it can be fought, with the judicious combination of intelligence, diplomacy and force, and by assuring national security in the only way it can be assured, by empowering the people so that they can have the means, opportunity and motive to defend themselves. As this country's experience shows, a huge military never combats terrorism or oppression anyway. It only adds to them.

Of course, we should try the corrupt generals (and civilian officials), and punish them when they are found guilty. Life doesn't go on with justice, a nation doesn't move on without rewarding the just and punishing the guilty. But we want permanent solutions to the corruption in the military, let's cut it down to size, physically and ideologically, to reflect its true place in our lives. Our greatest enemies today are not terrorists and communists, they are hunger and corruption. Hunger terrorizes and corruption subverts.

Everything else is just *moro-moro.* (My deepest apologies to Moros.)

AFP placed under searing scrutiny

ANALYSIS

Amando Doronila

THE ARMED Forces of the Philippines has come under raking fire for alleged corruption following the disclosure that its former comptroller, Maj. Gen. Carlos Garcia, had allegedly transferred about P44 million to his account in the United States and accumulated assets worth more than P50 million. Garcia faces a court martial, beginning on Friday, on general charges of unexplained wealth and corruption.

The disclosure has plunged the military into unprecedented turmoil. The Garcia scandal was followed by the privilege speech of Sen. Miriam Defensor-Santiago, who revealed the mechanism of "institutionalized corruption" in the Armed Forces through the practice of "clearance and conversion"—a process presided over by what she called "Gang of 12," composed of general staff officers. The senator's speech piled up one shock after another, as it followed newspaper reports that alleged retiring AFP chiefs of staff received golden handshakes ranging from P100 million to P200 million each, drawn from the AFP's "centrally managed funds."

At no time in recent memory has the Armed Forces been more severely pummeled by corruption charges than it is today. The military's handling of public funds is under investigation by three bodies: the House of Representatives, the Ombudsman and the military court martial on the Garcia unexplained wealth case.

These inquiries are extraordinary events in that they have put the Armed Forces, the custodian of national security, under searing scrutiny for corruption, a malaise that is often associated with the civilian sector of public affairs. The Jose Pidal scandal that embroiled the first Arroyo administration before the last election is nothing compared with the military corruption controversy.

The gravity of these inquiries and their implication for the credibility of the Armed Forces as a key state institution that underpins political stability were correctly recognized by the former chief of staff, retired Gen. Angelo Reyes, now interior secretary, and another retired chief of staff, Dionisio Santiago. A horrified General Santiago warned that the attacks on the military could result in destroying it. "This is too much already," he said. "They're trying to destroy the institution."

Echoing Santiago's concern, Reyes, whose own acquisition of assets has attracted scrutiny, told the House committees on national defense and banks that the allegations of corruption were undermining the foundations of the Armed Forces.

Although Reyes conceded that the congressional inquiry was in aid of legislation, he warned, "I feel that, as the proceedings have been going on; there are perceptions that imputations of irregularities are eroding an honorable profession, the profession of arms; that the institution of the Armed Forces of the Philippines, the very institution that has been protecting the state and its people, is slowly being destroyed."

We should expect that more sordid details of corruption will surface in the court martial of Garcia, in the Ombudsman and in the House inquiry. With the bringing down of the Armed Forces to the ground of accountability, it has now joined the distinguished company of its civilian counterparts and other sectors of civil society. The inquiries show that the military is no longer a sacrosanct institution, immune from civil scrutiny, and untouchable because its monopoly of the means of state violence gives it the power of life and death over civilian regimes, threatened by civil unrest and disorder.

Santiago correctly put the controversy over alleged military corruption in this context: "All other institutions, media and Congress included, have their own share of bad eggs but we should never destroy the institution. We should isolate the bad eggs, punish them and improve the institution."

Isolate the bad eggs, is what exactly these disclosures in the court martial, the House hearings and the Ombudsman are trying to do, and the good sign is that the allegations are being substantiated by evidence, which is the way to incise the abscess that has infected the civil and political sector and which has now spread to the military. This is the first time that the military has been held accountable on such a scale since the Marcos regime, which pampered the Armed Forces and put it beyond civil scrutiny because he depended on it for regime support and survival.

President Macapagal-Arroyo, who has ordered Armed Forces Chief of Staff Gen. Narciso Abaya to start the court martial of Garcia before he retires, has pledged there would be no whitewash in the prosecution of wrongdoers to allay fears that she might provoke a backlash from the military.

The trial of Garcia and the revelations in Congress have put the President on the spot, more than they have the military. They put to the test her political will to clean up corruption in both the civil and military sectors.

Allegations of irregularities in the handling of public funds tend to cast doubt on the Armed Forces' credentials as an important recruitment ground for political leadership. Since the Marcos regime, we have increasingly recruited from the military material for political leadership, the most prominent example being Gen. Fidel V. Ramos who won the presidency in 1992. The military has to clean up or be cleaned up in order to establish its credentials as a political recruitment institution with superior ethical standards than those of politicians. Civilian corruption had been used by mutinous officers to justify their coup attempts.

Bringing home HIV/AIDS

AT LARGE

Rina Jimenez-David

OVERSEAS Filipino workers are among the "sectors" of society most vulnerable to HIV infection.

Their vulnerability stems not just from their occupation, such as the good number of migrant women workers involved in the sex and entertainment industry, but also from their living and working conditions. Lonely and homesick, isolated and coping with foreign languages, cultures and even religions, cut off from their social support system of family and friends, OFWs find themselves craving for companionship while at the same time suddenly liberated from the social strictures that once governed their behavior. Emotional vulnerability combined with sexual license give rise to many risks, not least of which are sexually transmitted infections, including HIV/AIDS.

"In a country that has a nascent HIV/AIDS epidemic, almost one-third (of people testing positive for HIV) are former migrant workers," notes Maria Lourdes Marin, executive director of Action for Health Initiatives (Achieve) Inc., in her foreword to the book "For Good." "While this high figure may be a result of increased mandatory HIV testing of migrant workers, it gives evidence to an emerging concern, not just locally but globally. How does HIV/AIDS affect the lives of Filipino migrant workers? What do they go through when they get infected? What is the impact on those infected and affected by it? How do they cope, survive and pursue their dreams?"

These are the questions that Achieve, with its partners, Coordination of Action Research on AIDS and Mobility (Caram)-Philippines and Kalayaan, sought to answer when they embarked in 1997 on a research project on the vulnerability of migrant workers to HIV/AIDS. With time, and with growing public awareness of the issue, as well as the emergence of several organizations of people living with HIV/AIDS (PLWAs), Achieve decided to extend the initial research work resulting in the documentation of the life stories of 11 migrant workers living with HIV/AIDS, contained in the book "For Good."

* * *

OF the 11 former OFWs who shared their stories with the researchers, four are males, six females and one a self-identified transgender (that is, a man who underwent medical treatment, including a breast implant, to look more like a woman but who did not undergo the full sex-change procedure).

Browsing through the volume, I found seafarers, domestic workers, sex workers, a health worker. Once their positive status became known, all were sent home and now work as peer educators and counselors, mainly for PLWA groups. One woman has since passed away due to breast cancer.

The respondents' recollection of their childhoods and their motivations for working abroad do not vary much from the common stories of deprivation, poverty and ambition that drive so many Filipinos to leave the homeland. Seeking a reason for the workers' vulnerability to sexually transmitted infection, the researchers found a deadly intersection among economic factors, gender roles, relations and expectations, as well as ignorance of sexual and reproductive health matters.

"Indeed, the taboo against talking and seeking information about sexual matters explains why many...especially the women, hardly know anything about reproductive health when they first left the country. This also partly accounts for the failure of both sexes to practice or demand safe sex from their partners," the authors point out.

* * *

WHILE employed abroad, the workers mentioned the pressures they were subjected to not just from their immediate families but even friends and other relatives. Still, rather than give their families back home a realistic picture of their plight, the workers scramble to fulfill these expectations, sometimes taking on second or third jobs just to earn enough to send home.

Note the authors: "The families do not understand the difficulty faced by migrant workers in trying to fulfill the demands placed on their shoulders. The migrant workers, however, give in to the demands of their families and keep silent about their problems." Certainly, a vicious cycle of expectations, pressure and silence.

Migrant workers, particularly women workers, are subject to a barrage of health tests before their deployment and in the course of their employment. And often, the manner by which they find out about their HIV status exacerbates the fear and insecurity such news brings.

"Lovely," for instance, was summoned by a clinic in Singapore and told to bring her employer with her. After first talking to the employer, the doctor in the clinic then bluntly told Lovely that she was HIV-positive. "Am I going to die?" she blurted out, to which the doctor replied coldly, "Everybody is going to die." The doctor then accused Lovely of bringing bad luck to his country. "Most HIV-positives in our country are migrant workers," the jerk said. "You are the ones bringing the virus to our country. So the best thing you could do is to get out of Singapore to avoid transmitting the virus."

If he had bothered to ask, Lovely had had only one partner while in Singapore, a Singaporean-Chinese.

* * *

IT is "highly likely" that the incidence of HIV infection among migrant workers will continue to rise in the coming years, the authors note. Among the reasons for this conclusion: migration increasingly becoming a more permanent economic option for many and the continued neglect of the link between migration and HIV/AIDS.

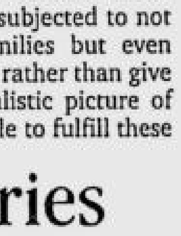
"In the final analysis," say the authors, "the impact of HIV/AIDS among migrant workers has a potential ripple effect, beginning with the individual...extending to his or her immediate family, expanding to the community, and eventually affecting the entire society."

Clearly, HIV/AIDS is not just "their" problem, it is ours.

Scary stories

LOOKING BACK

Ambeth R. Ocampo



HALLOWEEN is upon us again. In the village where I live, many families with children have put ghosts, goblins and ghouls outside their homes. Some have turned their front gardens into mock graveyards complete with tombstones, but the names are foreign. One house has a giant spider (actually black trash bags made to form a spider) sliding down a web attached to the carport. Another house has a complete horror castle complete with lights and creepy creatures.

These are all very creative displays mostly bought over the counter, which may explain why I have not seen real pumpkins carved into scary faces with candles inside. Neither have I seen the real spooks in Philippine folklore: *kapre, tianak, manananggal, mangagaway, aswang,* etc. Halloween like some professional basketball players, is an import, a tradition that doesn't go very far back in the Philippines, but it is catching up.

It would be fascinating to know what scares Filipinos today. We are too urban for the *aswang* these days but there are other things to fear: criminals, criminals in police or military uniform, sexual predators, kidnappers, illegal recruiters, etc.

It would be fascinating to know the outcome of the First Capiz Aswang Festival this year. If Capiz is successful in drawing interest and tourists, perhaps other places could cash in on folklore like the witches of Siquijor or even the White Lady of Balete Drive, a hoax that has persisted over time like the Code of Kalantiaw.

Over the years, I have come across some very strange stories that I cannot use in my historical writings even if they are very arresting. For example, there have been accounts of ghosts in the Casa Manila Museum in Intramuros. I've always doubted this because the structure is new. How can you have ghosts in a house reconstructed in the 1980s? There are reports of sightings of Guardias Civiles and another "White Lady" wailing like Sisa of "Noli Me Tangere."

In contrast, there have been no ghosts reported in any of the Rizal shrines: Fort Santiago, Calamba and Dapitan. If there were, maybe I would take the trouble to talk to Rizal's ghost if only to answer a lot of questions that resulted from reading all his writings. You will find in Guillermo Tolentino's forgotten book "Si Rizal" a transcript of a séance where Trinidad Rizal is alleged to have spoken to her brother Jose through a medium. Unfortunately, the language is stilted and the content too boring to be true.

Emilio Aguinaldo's mansion in Kawit, Cavite, is a museum and a national shrine. It is an original structure and should house spirits, at least of the hero buried in a simple white marble tomb in the back of the house. But so far there are no stories of the general going through all the secret passages and hidden rooms in the house.

Twenty years ago when I first visited the shrine, I was told *kapre* rather than ghost stories. A friendly *kapre* was said to inhabit an ancient mango tree near the master's bedroom. This creature would speak to the general either in his bedroom or the small room he kept on the tower of the house. A red light was allegedly seen on dark nights in this tree and it was said to be the lighted end of the *kapre's* cigar.

I cannot pinpoint one person who has seen the *kapre* or his lighted cigar. All we have are second- or third-hand accounts of sightings.

Why do these stories always come from the friend of a friend or a relative of a friend who cannot be traced for full documentation? The Kawit *kapre* is supposed to have warned Aguinaldo of danger or the enemy, which partly explains why he survived assassins and the war. Despite a handful of sensational television reports on the *kapre*, this rumor has sort of faded away. Not too much horror effect here.

Another famous Halloween story that has also been forgotten concerns a painting by Juan Luna in the National Museum. It shows a woman in bed, with one breast exposed as if to seduce the viewer, but the disconcerting detail here is the rosary in her hands, and a prayer book on the night table. This curious mix of visuals led to a lot of speculation as to what the woman was trying to say or do or what Luna was trying to say or do. But we will leave that to art critics and psychiatrists and turn to the scary story.

This painting used to be known as the portrait of Paz Pardo de Tavera, until extant photographs proved that this was a different woman. One could argue that Luna made his wife prettier than she was, and I often use this painting to illustrate that love is indeed blind.

Like some paintings by Fernando Amorsolo depicting the horrors of the Japanese Occupation, this particular Luna painting has a reputation for bringing bad luck to people who own it: unexplained or unexpected death, illness or, worse, bankruptcy. It was even said that at certain times of the day, museum visitors would gaze on this beautiful woman and see her eyes turn red like glowing coals.

Again all are stories, and nothing has been documented so far.

In Europe, real estate especially old castles and manors, gain prestige if it has a resident historical ghost. In the Philippines, nobody will buy a haunted house. Now that is a cultural difference.

* * *

Comments are welcome at acoampo@ateneo.edu

From Paris to Greenhills

PINOY KASI

Michael L. Tan

TWO series of unfolding events in France and in the Philippines won't make it into front-page headlines but their outcomes can affect the lives of many people, for decades to come.

In France, effective Sept. 2, the government has banned the use of "overt" religious symbols in public schools, including Muslim headscarves for women (*hijab*), Jewish skullcaps and large Christian crosses.

In principle, the French ban is meant to uphold secularism but it is clear that the move, goaded on by the far right National Front party, is mainly targeting Muslims, with the argument that the headscarves represent Islamic fundamentalism (read terrorism).

Here at home, we also have a small storm brewing in the Greenhills district in San Juan, Metro Manila. I am referring to the opposition by some Greenhills residents and shop owners to the proposal to put up a *musallah* or Muslim prayer room in their shopping center. A resident told ABS-CBN news that a prayer room would turn Greenhills "into a haven of squatters, robbers and worse, terrorists," claiming this happened in Quiapo and Taguig after mosques were built there.

Secularism

There is one stark similarity between the ban in French schools and the opposition to a *musallah* in Greenhills: bigotry, mainly targeting the Muslims and invoking the threat of terrorism. But there are differences in the way the prejudice is disguised.

In France, the ban on "overt" religious symbols invokes the principle of secularism, which the French have insisted on since the French Revolution in the 18th century. The Roman Catholic Church had been identified with the oppression of the French aristocracy and so secularism was intended to end the domination of the Catholics over the state. There was, too, the influence of the French enlightenment philosophers Voltaire, Diderot and Montesquieu who saw religion as divisive and intolerant.

The French debates have relevance to Filipinos. We also subscribe to the separation of Church and State. Last year, University of the Philippines president Francisco Nemenzo issued a memo reminding faculty that the university, as a state institution, needed to remain neutral when it came to religion. Specifically, he pointed out that classes and other official functions were not to start off with a prayer or invocation. The memo came as a result of a law student's complaint that one faculty member had been starting her classes with a Catholic prayer.

I wrote about that memo some months back, expressing my agreement and arguing that it's not just in state universities but in any institution used by the public (for example, hospitals) where we need to maintain secularism, not in opposition to religion but, precisely, as a way of respecting religious freedom and the diversity of faiths.

Having said all this, I would disagree with the French government ban, which is so clearly instigated by a lack of understanding of the so-called religious symbols. First, a headscarf isn't going to stoke the flames of Islamic extremism any more than a large cross on a necklace would fan Catholic fanaticism.

Second, the French ban fails to see that the so-called religious symbols actually transcend faith. The *hijab* isn't just an expression of Islam; in fact, some of those who oppose the *hijab* see it more as a symbol of the oppression of women. Yet, Muslim women themselves will explain that the veils have many meanings, including an expression of one's identity. One Muslim woman anthropologist has even described the *burqa*,—which covers the entire body, as "portable seclusion," giving a sense of protection from intrusive eyes, including those of religious conservatives. Underneath the *burqa*, Muslim women have been known to use cosmetics and wear high heels!

It's not surprising the French are now caught in a quagmire because the ban on religious symbols has been interpreted by one school to extend to Sikh turbans. Last week, when one school banned three Sikh boys from using their turbans, the parents brought the case to court. Again, there is a lack of cultural competence here, the inability to see the turbans not just as an expression of the Sikh religion but of a Sikh ethnic identity.

Religious apartheid

The issue then is one of cultural liberty, which the United Nations defines as the ability to practice one's own religion, to speak one's language, to celebrate one's ethnic heritage, "without fear of ridicule or punishment or diminished opportunity."

"Diminished opportunity" are the keywords here. In the Greenhills controversy, some Christians argue that a Muslim prayer room is inappropriate because the area is largely Catholic. But we forget that there are some 400 Muslim traders in the Greenhills Shopping Center. Islam requires prayer five times a day and the Muslims in Greenhills have been doing this in an empty space at the side of a building, a stone's throw away from a large Catholic chapel. A *musallah* would allow Muslims equal opportunities with Catholics to practice their religion in a more decent, secured space.

This is why I've always argued that UP, despite its secular nature, must provide at least a *musallah* for its Muslim students, simply because we already have Catholic and Protestant churches within the campus.

Of course, the best solution to all this—whether in Greenhills or on UP campuses—is to have ecumenical rooms or buildings where people of all faiths can worship and reflect. You see such rooms in the world's major airports, a testimony to the multicultural age we live in.

Muslim traders are now found in the country's major urban centers and I've always felt their businesses are a good thing, a chance for Muslims and Christians to interact. I've talked with both Christian and Muslim business people in Greenhills, Quiapo, Baguio and they generally agree they are able to co-exist peacefully.

The absence of a *musallah* in Greenhills will only reinforce the tendency of Muslims to retreat into ghettos, practicing their faith apart from Christians. We are in a sense creating religious apartheid (an Afrikaans/Dutch word that means apart-ness), imposing our own mental *hijabs* on our Muslim brothers and sisters and keeping them mysterious, forbidding and threatening.

How do parents in France, and in the Philippines, explain to their children why there is this religious apartheid? At best, the next generation will shrug this off as ignorance. It could be worse though, as religious extremists capitalize on this apartheid to prove how religious minorities are persecuted. The next generation may yet reap a bitter harvest from our intolerance and bigotry.

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Migrante wrong on OWWA policies

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER LETTERS

MIGRANTE International is dead wrong in claiming that the Overseas Workers Welfare Administration (OWWA) omnibus policies are "unjust." (PDI, 10/06/04)

It is erroneous to associate the $25 (about P1,400) fee with an alleged "administration attempt to foist on the OFWs (overseas Filipino workers) the burden of the fiscal crisis." The contributions are pooled together purposely to provide insurance and other assistance for OWWA members and their families. The legal basis for the fund is Letter of Instructions 537, which mandates the collection of the membership contribution. Moreover, in line with the Migrant Workers and Overseas Filipinos Act of 1995 (RA 8042), which upholds the role and functions of the OWWA, the omnibus policies delineate clear guidelines on OWWA membership and coverage, the collection of contributions and the availment of benefits.

Secondly, the policies plainly set forth the services and benefits OWWA members are entitled to, wherever and whenever the need arises. For $25, the OWWA member is entitled to P100,000-P200,000 life insurance, P2,000-P50,000 disability and dismemberment benefits, P100,000 total disability benefits, P20,000 burial benefits, and P40,000 pre-departure and family assistance loans.

OWWA also allocates P6 million annually for OFWs wanting to avail of technical and training assistance. The agency also provides P30,000 per semester each to some 100 OFWs and their families annually for its college scholarship program. Another P10 million is allocated yearly for its seafarers' upgrading program. Its reintegration program also provides livelihood loans to returning OFWs.

Over and above the programs and services extended to OWWA members, non-members in various job sites with labor-related problems are also assisted in the form of case settlements and repatriation.

Overall, the omnibus policies protect the OFW members' welfare and contribution in recognition of the maximum benefits that they deserve.

May we assure Migrante that the OWWA and the Philippine government, for that matter, have always sought to assist OFWs, including distressed non-OWWA members, to the fullest measure possible.

The main problem with Migrante is that it campaigns against OWWA membership and coverage and yet it wants to avail of its benefits!

May I add that Labor Secretary Patricia Sto. Tomas, ex-officio chair of the OWWA, has caused the increase in OWWA funds from P2 billion to about P8 billion within the past two years. We figure that within the next year, OWWA's operating expenses can be drawn from interest earnings, thereby assuring more and continued benefits for OFWs.

—JEFFREY D. CORTAZAR,
assistant secretary,
Department of Labor and Employment,
Intramuros, Manila

Consumerism as a nightmare

OCTOBER is Consumer Welfare Month. It may be worthwhile to reflect at this time why the consumer movement in the Philippines is timid and can hardly compare with those in other civilized countries. What we see around here are consumer organizations conferring awards on undeserving businesses after a questionable, non-transparent selection process. And there are the so-called consumer watchdogs who sound exactly as if they were the spokespersons of certain industry groups.

It is but natural for consumers to complain about poor products and services. And it is the duty of the government to protect the rights of consumers, as mandated by the Philippine Constitution. But based on my 12-year experience as a consumerist, consumer activism is a risky exercise in this country. It is only for those who have the determination of a martyr. It is a quixotic struggle where you have to fight the dragons of irresponsible and greedy corporations. Asserting your rights as a consumer, or fighting for other consumers, is like daring the fires of hell to engulf you.

We have here corporate mafias and gangsters that don't care about public relations and goodwill; that are so focused only on profits at all cost that they wouldn't mind fooling the consumers.

When you go against them, they send their attack dogs from top law firms against you. And then your calvary begins.

Our courts of justice are virtually an arena of persecution and oppression under the control and manipulation of top law firms such that one can't help feeling like he is in a repressive state and not in a republican government. One begins to doubt whether the country is merely pretending to be a democratic state. One feels so disappointed that he would sometimes wish for Ka Roger Rosal's brand of justice.

Where else in this modern world can you find consumerists who—after fighting for others, particularly the poor and the marginalized—are treated like perpetrators of heinous crimes, tried four times a month in separate courts, their right to a consolidation of cases ignored and denied? Only in the Philippines! And it's a nightmare.

Believe me, after 12 years, this has been my bitter experience in the Philippine consumer movement.

We can only call God for help and salvation. And we hope that Senators Mar Roxas, Alfredo Lim and Aquilino Pimentel Jr. will take note of this and take the cudgels for consumers.

—VIC DEL FIERRO JR.,
president,
Coalition for Consumer Protection & Welfare Inc.,
104 Gaiety St., Annex 18,
Better Living, Parañaque City

Intriguing ERC move

WE vehemently protest the action of the Energy Regulatory Commission when it conducted a public consultation on the "Guidelines for the Automatic Adjustment of Generation Rates and System Loss Rates by Distribution Utilities" last Oct. 4 without inviting the consumers. We only came to know of the public consultation from the National Association of Electricity Consumers for Reforms Inc. (Nasecore), which in turn came to know about it that very day. Ironically, not even the Consumer Affairs Department of the commission was aware of the forum.

As can be gleaned from the topic of consultation, we can only surmise that its implementation will again burden the consumer. If this were so, wouldn't it have been proper for the ERC to ensure consumer attendance in the "consultation" in the light of its mandate, which is "promoting consumer protection"?

Because the ERC chose not to invite us, we are inclined to believe that the ERC does not consider consumers to be a necessary part of that "public consultation." It intrigues us no end how the commission will be able to come up with intelligent and unbiased guidelines without hearing the side of the consumers who bear the brunt of any rate adjustment it approves.

We are requesting the honorable commission to allow us the chance to participate in the consultation by extending the deadline on the submission of comments on the draft guidelines, and also to conduct a separate public consultation with consumers.

—DR. BONIFACIO C. DAZO,
president, Federation of Las Piñas Homeowners Association,
Las Piñas City, bc_dazo@yahoo.com;
SIEGFRIEDO VELOSO,
president, Federation of Village Association,
Muntinlupa City, siegveloso@yahoo.com

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4. One MTCN entitles the sender to an electronic entry for a chance to win any of the prizes.
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6. Each SMS entry will receive an instant acknowledgement or winning notification via SMS and registered mail from Western Union.
7. Each MTCN can only win one prize for the entire promo duration. The MTCN needs to be registered only once. Sender can win as many times as he makes a domestic money transfer through Western Union.
8. A specific mobile phone number can only be registered under one participant/sender. Subsequent entries from the same number will be credited under the name of the registered participant/sender.
9. **Remember to KEEP YOUR "To Send Form" as this will be asked before claiming the prize. Failure to present the "To Send Form" which contains the winning MTCN and transaction amount will forfeit the winner from claiming the prize.**
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4. Each successful message sent costs P2.50.
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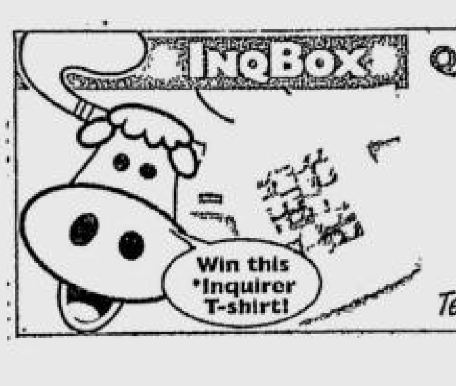
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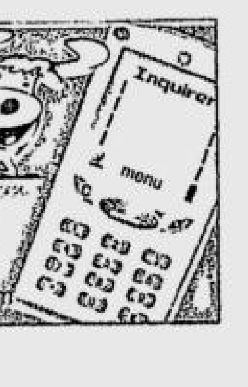

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300 teachers to stop receiving pay

CITY OF MALOLOS—More than 300 public school teachers hired by the provincial government will not receive their salaries starting this month, as well as their Christmas bonuses.

The situation arose after Gov. Josefiña de la Cruz announced on Monday that 12 of Bulacan's 22 towns had failed to remit the provincial government's share of their revenues for several years.

De la Cruz said she had to resort to the drastic cost-cutting measure because the fund shortage would adversely affect the delivery of basic services in the province.

She said at least P56 million in real property tax shares still had to be collected from the delinquent municipal governments.

Worse, she said, one town had a pending obligation of more than P36 million to the provincial treasury.

De la Cruz said teachers receiving between P8,000 and P12,000 monthly would not get their salaries starting this month until the obligations of the delinquent towns were settled.

What aggravated the problem was the town governments' nonremittance of their contributions to provincial school board funds or the Special Education Fund, she said.

The school board fund is a separate trust fund for the education needs and expenses of the province, she explained.

De la Cruz asked the concerned mayors and municipal treasurers to remit these funds so the provincial government could release the salaries and bonuses of the teachers.

She said the provincial government hired more teachers to augment the teaching personnel of teachers in Bulacan who draw their salaries from the Department of Education.

The governor said a fund malversation case filed against her by a nongovernment organization before the Ombudsman was preventing her from getting funds from other provincial sources to pay for the salaries and bonuses of the teachers.

"I was charged with this case when the provincial school board decided to finance the other basic needs of the provincial government. That's why I can no longer divert some funds," she said. *Carmela Reyes, PDI Central Luzon Desk*

LOYALTY PDI MINDANAO BUREAU
A girl displays Philippine flags in Basilan during the recent visit there of US and USAID officials to inspect projects funded by the US government. Basilan is still reeling from the effects of a string of kidnappings and murders perpetrated by the Abu Sayyaf bandit group.

Japanese group remembers kamikaze pilots

By Tonette Orejas
and Allan Macatuno
PDI Central Luzon Desk

CLARK SPECIAL ECONOMIC ZONE—"The quest for enduring peace cannot be left to world leaders. People from all over the world must work and pray for its realization."

Making this appeal and chanting prayers for world peace on Monday, Bishop Ekan Ikeguchi, the Great Buddhist Bishop of Japan and an Asean Peace Prize awardee, led rites commemorating the birth of the kamikaze.

The kamikaze pilots launched suicide missions against the US naval fleet involved in history's most massive sea battle in Leyte 60 years ago.

The peace messages of Ikeguchi were beamed from a World War II camp known here as Lily Hill. It is behind what is now Claro M. Recto Avenue, which is lined with duty free stores.

The hill was where the Kembu Group, comprised of some 30,000 soldiers from various units of the Japanese Imperial Army, defended Clark from Dec. 5, 1944 to Sept. 20, 1945, accounts by Shinjo Akamatsu in his "The Diary of the Last Man in the Kembu Group," showed.

The peace-crusading bishop had a 20-foot statue of the Kannon Bodhisattva or the Goddess of Mercy erected on the hill.

The place has been called the Goddess of World Peace Shrine since 1998 when the Clark-Mabalacat area in Pampanga had been declared "City of World Peace" in the bishop's yearly pilgrimage.

As he and several monks solemnly chanted an hour-long prayer in Japanese and burned incense sticks, those from among the 100 or so Japanese pilgrims, mostly businessmen, were seen suppressing their tears.

They also held back their emotions when the Philippine Air Force band played the hymn of the Japanese Imperial Army's navy, from where most of the suicide pilots originated.

The bishop said the sad feelings came from the "regret of going into war and the pain of losing it."

To this day, he said, prayers and tributes had not been said for the millions of Japanese soldiers who died in other lands during the war.

He commended the efforts of Filipinos to put up peace memorials for the kamikaze soldiers. These efforts, he said, "should have been initiated instead by Japan and not by the very people who suffered from the war, the Filipinos."

The shrines, he believed, were signs that the Filipinos had "learned to forgive and move on."

"By the good deeds of our Filipino friends, I believe that the spirits of the valiant men of the kamikaze can now rest in peace," the bishop said in a speech delivered in Japanese.

"War impoverishes people, destroys their dreams and hopes. War is evil... but kamikaze pilots are not evil, although they made their own lives as weapons," said Japanese actor Mayasuki Imai.

Workers say Calabarzon wage order 'deceptive, suspicious'

By Marlon Ramos
PDI Southern Luzon Bureau

CALAMBA CITY—A new wage order issued by the Department of Labor and Employment regional office has angered workers, who said it would only lead to retrenchment in the Calabarzon.

Marlene Gonzalez, chair of the Solidarity of Cavite Workers (SCW), said the order issued recently by the Regional Tripartite Wages and Productivity Board was a bane to workers, especially in areas reclassified as lower-wage level.

She said that instead of giving a wage increase, the order "in fact, reduced the daily wages received by common workers because of the reclassification of 60 percent of cities and municipalities."

The order, which takes effect Nov. 1, gave an average of P11 to workers of Cavite, Laguna, Batangas, Rizal and Quezon, but reduced the number of towns classified as "extended metropolitan area" from 21 to six.

Workers from these areas will get P18 more per day, raising to P255 the minimum wage in San Pedro and Biñan towns in Laguna, Bacoor and Imus in Cavite, and Cainta and Taytay towns in Rizal.

The new minimum wage is P5 higher than that in Metro Manila.

Gonzales said the wage order put highly industrialized towns under the "growth corridor area," which received a P12 increase and got a P220 minimum rate.

Rosario town in Cavite was reclassified as a "growth corridor area" despite its being home to over 250 factories, she said.

"But Bacoor only has three big companies, all of which are in the service sector, such as SM supermarket. Why was it retained under the extended metropolitan area?" she asked.

"This wage order is highly suspicious, anomalous and deceptive," she said. In paper, she said, the minimum wage in Cavite increased from P237 to P249, but the board actually reduced the workers' wage to P232 instead of P255.

"Once implemented, we would be losing P23 a day," Gonzales said.

She said the wage order only "gave credence" to her group's call for the abolition of the regional wage boards.

She said they would instead push for a P125 legislated wage increase, which was still pending in the House of Representatives.

During a rally of the SCW, Gonzales accused DOLE regional chief Maximo Lim and other labor officials of conniving with big business groups in Calabarzon "in concocting this pro-capitalist wage order."

Lim shrugged off the allegations as he agreed to talk with the protesters inside his office.

During the dialogue, the labor official reiterated that it was the members of the wage board, composed of representatives from the management and labor unions, who conceived and approved the wage order.

"I may be the chairman of the wage board, but I do not have power over the board members. This order was a product of our consultations with different groups, including labor groups," Lim said.

He also stood by the decision to reclassify most of the towns "based on their different levels of development."

Lim promised to endorse SCW's proposed amendments to the board regarding the wage order.

Sects protest 'Aswang Festival'

ROXAS CITY—Members of various religious sects here are protesting the holding of the Aswang Festival.

About 200 of them held a prayer rally on Friday in front of the Hall of Justice and the Dinggoy Roxas Civic Center, saying the festival on Oct. 29-30 would "glorify evil."

The protesters belonged to Charismatic and Born Again groups, such as the Lord of the Nation and the Jesus is Lord Fellowship, and independent Christian churches.

Leo Nuñez, one of the rally speakers, urged the Dugo Capiznon Inc., the nongovernment organization staging the festival, to cancel the event because it was "paganistic" and "praises evil."

"It's time for the people of Roxas City and Capiz to join hands in calling for a stop to this festivity," he said.

The religious groups' stand differs from the position taken by Msgr. Vicente Hilata, Mary Immaculate Conception Metropolitan Cathedral vicar general, who has called the festival innovative.

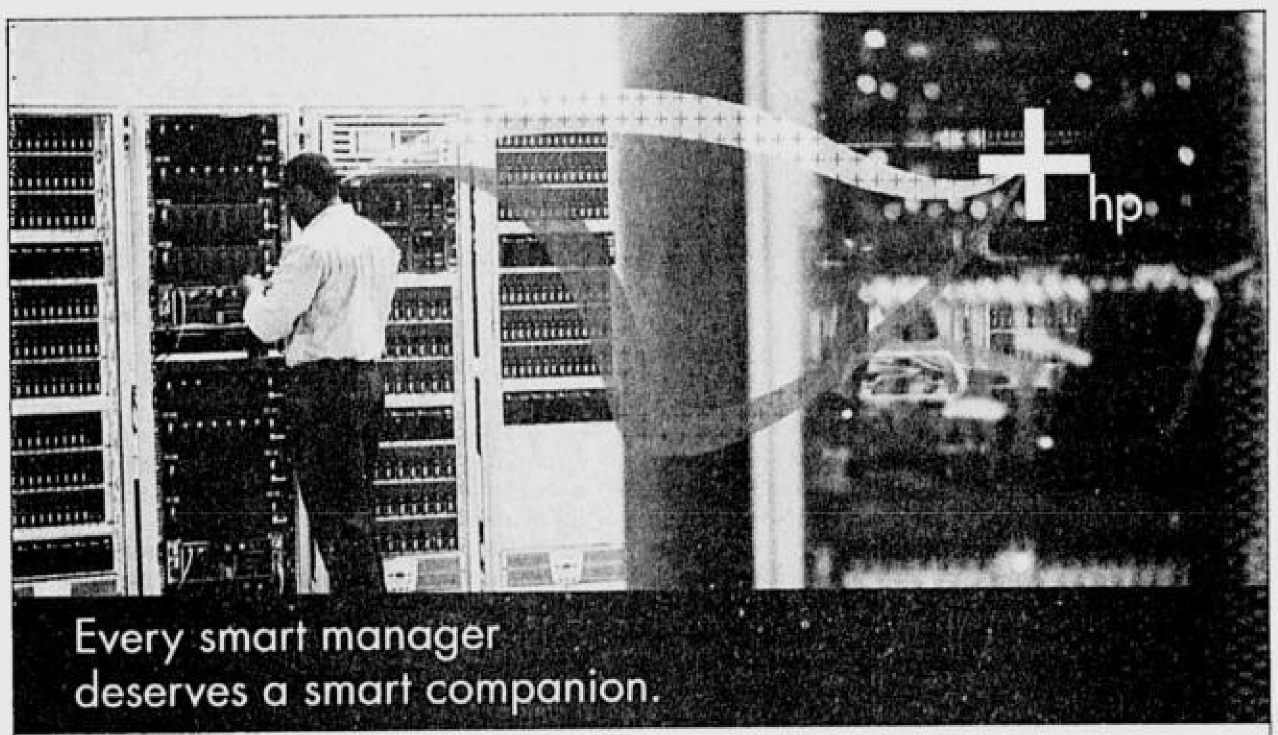
Hilata, also rector of the Colegio de la Purisima Concepcion, said he saw nothing wrong with the festival because witches were not real.

Tales of witches hungry for human flesh and blood were concocted to scare and dissuade children from leaving home and roaming after the Angelus, he said.

Hilata, however, said he was wary of the possible misconceptions that the festival might raise.

He told the Dugo Capiznon to put the festival in proper perspective—that it must be held to rectify the "aswang" image of Capiz and the Capiceños.

Felipe V. Celino, PDI Visayas Bureau



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THE LINE TO HEALING. A receptionist at the PCSO's Fund Allocation Department (FAD) instructs a grandmother to fill up an application request as hundreds wait for their turn to seek medical and hospital assistance from the charity agency.
PHOTO BY DES MANLAPAZ

'More than 1,600 hospitals poised to accommodate over 4 million GMA card holders,' says PhilHealth

By Dmitri Arce

OVER 1,600 GOVERNMENT and private hospitals nationwide are now primed to accommodate more than 4 million families that still have to avail of their Enhanced Greater Medical Access (GMA)-PhilHealth card.

This was disclosed by Arcie Torres, officer-in-charge of the Office of the Vice President for Marketing at PhilHealth, as she vouched for the national government's capacity to deliver access to health services and medical assistance to some 20 million direct beneficiaries of the Enhanced GMA-PhilHealth card program.

The program, started in February this year, is a joint effort of Philhealth, the national government and local government units (LGUs), and the Philippine Charity Sweepstakes Office (PCSO). It is an expanded version of the PCSO GMA Program launched last in April 2003, which was geared to intensify the government's efforts to provide universal health coverage to poor Filipinos.

Records sourced from PhilHealth indicate that as of August this year, about 4,241,381 individuals have been enrolled in the program, for a total reach of 20 million direct beneficiaries.

PhilHealth officials said that the distribution scheme of the Enhanced GMA-PhilHealth card program gives priority to heads of families and breadwinners, with their dependents listed also as direct beneficiaries.

This type of distribution scheme allows for orderly tracking and monitoring of services extended, since direct beneficiaries enjoy the same health and medical privileges, proponents said.

The target number of enrollment to the Enhanced GMA-PhilHealth card program is 5 million cardholders. This translates to around 25 million total beneficiaries or almost a fourth of the current Philippine population.

Torres disclosed that to as of August this year, the enrollment number of beneficiaries have been higher than the reported number of beneficiaries that actually availed of the program's health and medical benefits, that include, among others – patient assistance on room and board, medicine, laboratory fees and hospitalization.

As of August of this year, Torres said that processed hospitalization claims of about 34,000 beneficiaries was reported, but the cost still amounted to P163 million, or 70 percent of what PCSO has so far released as funds for the program.

PCSO has transferred a total of P230 million to Philhealth as partial payment of its share in implementing the program. Both PCSO and the national government, through the Department of Budget and Management (DBM), have been tasked to fund the payment of premiums of cardholders. The premium requirement of the program is over P5 billion, around P1.75 billion of which is shouldered by PCSO.

When a salary is not ALL salary

THE ENCARTA dictionary defines "salary" as **payment for nonmanual work:** a set sum of money paid at regular intervals to an employee, especially for professional or clerical work.

A salary, according to Encarta, is usually presented as an annual or monthly figure, as opposed to the wage paid to manual workers, which is usually based on an hourly rate and paid weekly.

The Phlippine Charity Sweepstakes Office (PCSO) figured in a salary controversy-of-sorts recently, after it was reported that its top official, former PCSO chair Ma. Livia 'Honeygirl' de Leon, received P9.8 million in salaries and allowances in 2001.

The multi-million salary received was sourced from a response made by Budget Secretary Emilia Boncodin before a Senate inquiry.

But Benigno Aguas, PCSO Budget and Accounting Department manager declared the report as "misleading" since "it would make people believe that all P9.8 million went to only one person, in this case, the PCSO former chair."

Aguas elaborated that of the P9.8 million, former chair De Leon received only P1,239,811.04. The said amount pertained to De Leon's total salary or a monthly gross salary of P30,000, excluding taxes, .

He added that the rest of the P9.8 million came in the form of "discretionary expenses" or as part of the PCSO chair's "confidential fund."

"Discretionary expenses are released to the PCSO chair for use in augmenting medical, health and other indigent programs of PCSO. The confidential or intelligence fund, on the other hand, is used for certain authorized expenditures which are designed to protect the interest and integrity of lotto operations," he further stated.

"Both funds are subject to accounting rules of the Commission on Audit," said Aguas.

To date, the PCSO has a total of 31 COA representatives, including the corporate auditor.

Aguas stressed that De Leon's 2001 discretionary fund (P4.8 million) disbursements were used to finance, among others, medical assistance and disaster relief distribution. These include: relief goods for typhoon victims and the Mayon Volcano victims; purchase of wheelchairs; funding for "Bantay Kalusugan;" and numerous individual medical and hospitalization assistance.

He likewise bared that De Leon's use of her confidential funds translated to only P3.7 million in 2001. ***Dmitri Arce***

Official Draw Results

MegaLotto 6/45 Oct. 2004 **11**
(in any order)
12 37 45 33 25 22
Luzon Jackpot Prize: no winner/s of P4,869,454.80
All following numbers should be in exact order
Lotto 4 Digit Game: 0 3 2 5
Suertres: 4 7 3
Lotto EZ 2: 9 26

Lotto 6/42 Oct. 2004 **12**
(in any order)
26 9 19 13 12 20
Luzon Jackpot Prize: 1 winner/s of P3,312,080.00
VisMin Jackpot Prize: no winner/s of P12,244,600.56
All following numbers should be in exact order
Lotto 6 Digit Game: 7 9 3 4 8 6
1st Prize: no winner/s of P838,822.08
Suertres: 2 2 0
Lotto EZ 2: 28 25

MegaLotto 6/45 Oct. 2004 **13**
(in any order)
40 38 3 34 4 35
Luzon Jackpot Prize: no winner/s of P10,089,506.70
All following numbers should be in exact order
Lotto 4 Digit Game: 8 2 4 8
Suertres: 0 6 7
Lotto EZ 2: 21 27

SuperLotto 6/49 Oct. 2004 **14**
(in any order)
40 6 15 48 42 39
Jackpot Prize: no winner/s of P11,274,057.90
All following numbers should be in exact order
Lotto 6 Digit Game: 7 5 6 0 2 7
1st Prize: no winner/s of P1,221,772.62
Suertres: 4 4 5
Lotto EZ 2: 11 24

MegaLotto 6/45 Oct. 2004 **15**
(in any order)
28 30 44 21 3 31
Luzon Jackpot Prize: no winner/s of P15,420,890.10
All following numbers should be in exact order
Lotto 4 Digit Game: 3 6 7 2
Suertres: 0 0 8
Lotto EZ 2: 25 25

Lotto 6/42 Oct. 2004 **16**
(in any order)
14 34 19 28 24 16
Luzon Jackpot Prize: no winner/s of P3,205,741.00
VisMin Jackpot Prize: no winner/s of P13,305,861.80
All following numbers should be in exact order
Lotto 6 Digit Game: 5 6 3 6 6 2
1st Prize: no winner/s of P1,632,749.06
Suertres: 5 3 2
Lotto EZ 2: 16 28

SuperLotto 6/49 Oct. 2004 **17**
(in any order)
7 30 31 48 12 38
Jackpot Prize: no winner/s of P16,833,652.50
All following numbers should be in exact order
Suertres: 9 5 6
Lotto EZ 2: 29 12

MegaLotto 6/45 Oct. 2004 **18**
(in any order)
43 6 36 8 42 37
Luzon Jackpot Prize: no winner/s of P20,803,429.50
All following numbers should be in exact order
Lotto 4 Digit Game: 2 5 6 1
Suertres: 9 8 4
Lotto EZ 2: 21 11

Lotto 6/42 Oct. 2004 **19**
(in any order)
20 10 38 42 30 26
Luzon Jackpot Prize: 1 winner/s of P6,532,194.00
VisMin Jackpot Prize: no winner/s of P14,352,402.05
All following numbers should be in exact order
Lotto 6 Digit Game: 8 5 0 2 0 2
1st Prize: no winner/s of P2,006,578.00
Suertres: 0 0 3
Lotto EZ 2: 14 27

MegaLotto 6/45 Oct. 2004 **20**
(in any order)
4 8 36 9 35 21
Luzon Jackpot Prize: no winner/s of P26,495,303.10
All following numbers should be in exact order
Lotto 4 Digit Game: 5 8 3 7
Suertres: 7 0 0
Lotto EZ 2: 21 24

SuperLotto 6/49 Oct. 2004 **21**
(in any order)
32 21 2 29 14 19
Jackpot Prize: 1 winner/s of P22,811,770.80
All following numbers should be in exact order
Lotto 6 Digit Game: 2 9 0 2 2 2
1st Prize: no winner/s of P2,295,550.28
Suertres: 9 6 9
Lotto EZ 2: 27 23

MegaLotto 6/45 Oct. 2004 **22**
(in any order)
19 22 10 45 37 30
Luzon Jackpot Prize: no winner/s of P32,382,056.70
All following numbers should be in exact order
Lotto 4 Digit Game: 2 4 7 6
Suertres: 9 9 8
Lotto EZ 2: 16 12

Lotto 6/42 Oct. 2004 **23**
(in any order)
3 20 1 31 29 41
Luzon Jackpot Prize: no winner/s of P3,176,700.00
VisMin Jackpot Prize: no winner/s of P15,404,530.40
All following numbers should be in exact order
Lotto 6 Digit Game: 3 3 9 0 4 9
1st Prize: no winner/s of P2,813,328.14
Suertres: 6 7 1
Lotto EZ 2: 3 8

SuperLotto 6/49 Oct. 2004 **24**
(in any order)
32 12 25 41 36 28
Jackpot Prize: no winner/s of P8,000,000.00
All following numbers should be in exact order
Suertres: 6 3 0
Lotto EZ 2: 6 10

MegaLotto 6/45 Oct. 2004 **25**
(in any order)
15 4 35 45 5 14
Luzon Jackpot Prize: 1 winner/s of P38,401,969.20
All following numbers should be in exact order
Lotto 4 Digit Game: 4 3 9 2
Suertres: 7 7 9
Lotto EZ 2: 1 28

Feedback

Ma'am RosarioC. Uriarte
Gen. Manager
PCSO, E. Rodriguez Ave. Q.C.

Dear Ma'am,

Nakita ko po ang email ad nyo at naglakas loob akong sumulat sa pagbabakasakaling matulungan nyo ako. Nagpunta po ako dyan sa PCSO dahil nakabasa ako sa PDI dated 08 Sept. issue tungkol sa "Wanna be a Lotto Agent" Then, by Sept. 16 nakatanggap po ako ng sulat signed by Ma'am Remeliza M. Gabuyo saying na saturated na daw po with 7 approved outlet.

Ma'am tulungan nyo naman po ako, kasi dito po sa baranggay namin Sta. Rita Karsada at Bolbok here in Batangas City ay wala pa namang outlet. I try to contact Ma'am Gabuyo by phone pero on vacation daw po siya, Ma'am help me naman po para makatululong din ako sa mga kabaryo ko na gustong tumaya sa lotto pero sa traffic po dito sa lugar namin ay hindi na sila pupunta pa sa city. May dalawa na po akong location site na naiforward diyan at nandoon ang pag-asa ko na matutulungan nyo ako sa aking application.

Good day and more power.

Respectfully yours,
Juana G. Camacho
Sta. Rita Karsada, Batangas City
Phone No: (043) 723 6516
Cell 0927 234 5002
Oct. 13, 2004

EDITOR'S NOTE- We forwarded the letter to PCSO and this is their reply:

We regret to inform Ms. Juana G. Camacho that we will not be able to approve her application for a lotto outlet in Batangas City.

Much as we encourage the setting up of lotto outlets in various parts of the country, there are guidelines set by the PCSO Board that we have to observe. These include areas where lotto outlets are not allowed, such as locations that are near churches and schools.

In the case of Ms. Camacho's application, her suggested lotto outlet is only 10 meters away from the Batangas City New Life Christian Church.

This violates the guideline provision that lotto outlets in the provinces have to be 200 meters away from churches and schools.

Still, we encourage Ms. Camacho to scout for other areas where a lotto outlet can be allowed to operate, based on PCSO-approved guidelines. We assure Ms. Camacho and other lotto outlet applicants that their requests will be processed and evaluated at the soonest possible time.

We encourage prospective lotto operators to visit our office so that we may furnish them with a copy of the PCSO-approved guidelines on the setting-up and operation of lotto outlets.

Thank you very much.
REMELIZA M. GABUYO
Dept. Mgr., PCSO Southern
Tagalog and Bicol Region

Lotto Tripping

Who are the lotto winners? Is there a formula for hitting the jackpot? How can you protect yourself and your money when you win?

By Ferdinand Mendoza

FOUR FACTORY workers agreed to place their bets on just one lotto number combination and won eight million pesos. Each received a share of P2 million which they all spent on non-stop shopping and drinking sprees. It didn't take a year before they realized they had spent all their lotto winnings. Worse, they were over their heads in debt!

A tricycle driver from Iloilo won P18 million. He came with his lawyer who "helped" him claim his prize. The driver went home with only P500,000 in his pocket. The rest was with his lawyer.

Some 915 Filipinos have joined the multi-million peso lotto winner's circle since it began in 1995. What do you do if the next one is you?

Tayaan ko kaya 'to..
FERTILIZER

Gloria Araullo, PCSO Treasury Department Manager, stressed that jackpot winners need to keep their presence of mind when they claim their prize.

"Most of the time, winners seem to lose their wits. Some even get paranoid, thinking that something bad might happen to them," she said.

Araullo added, however, that this was quite understandable. "Imagine if you win millions of pesos, wouldn't you feel the same way?"

As a safety measure, she advises winners that a 30-day time deposit for their money is the best first step after collecting their prize.

"This will give them ample time to think about how they will spend their money. Also, their winnings will increase since a 30-day time deposit earns considerable interest," explained Araullo.

Araullo, who has been in charge of releasing checks to lotto jackpot winners for the past six years, has become a mother of sorts to lotto winners. Some occasionally visit her and regale her with their experiences after winning the lotto.

Araullo cautioned that it is not good for winners to indulge in shopping sprees or to engage in overly generous acts soon after collecting their prize money.

In 2003, an urban poor community resident who hit the P19-million lotto jackpot was murdered after purchasing a van.

"We asked him what he would do with his money. He said that he would use part of it to renovate their church which had no walls and chairs. All went well until he bought a van and began giving freebies to his neighbors and relatives. Word got around fast that he won in the lotto. He was dead in less than a month," said Araullo.

Fortunately for lotto players, majority of the true-to-life stories of lotto winners are of the "happily ever after" kind.

A farmer from Bicol got his lucky number from the sack of fertilizer. He harvested the P32 million lotto jackpot prize.

A mother was cleaning her kitchen when a can of biscuit fell on her head. She saw numbers written on the can, bet on the number, and hit the jackpot.

When a kangkong vendor from Batangas hit the jackpot, she told her daughter — while Araullo was handing her the check: "*Anak, bukas, hindi na tayo magka-kangkong* [Daughter, tomorrow, we will no longer sell kangkong]."

The vendor, a mother of five children, had led a miserable life before winning the lotto.

Narrated Arraulo: "She told me how she (vendor) had to wake up very early each morning to harvest kangkong in a swamp and to sell it in a nearby market. If there is no kangkong to harvest, her family will go without food for that day."

In another instance, a mother of eight, whose eldest daughter works as an entertainer in Japan, hit the P145 million jackpot prize. In tears, the winner -- who had spent her most productive years as a *mayordoma* to a wealthy family in Bacolod -- told Araullo: "*Pauuwiin ko na ang anak ko bukas mula sa Japan* [I will send for my daughter first thing tomorrow]."

Araullo observes that next to an upgraded economic status, a good number of lotto winners also undergo a drastic makeover in looks.

"I am surprised by the change in their appearance within months after winning the jackpot. In some cases, I do not recognize the winner anymore." Araullo said with barely disguised mirth.

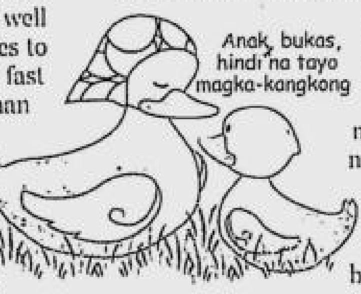
ARAULLO

She said that winners often tell her that they would prefer not to change their lifestyle. However, this is not always the case.

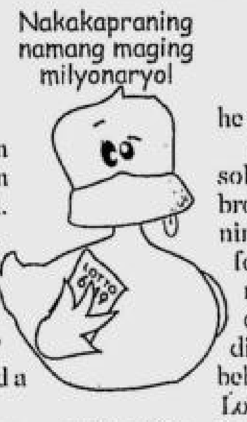
"Some claim their prize wearing ragged clothes and worn-out thong slippers. But when they visit me months later, they appear in fashionable clothes and leather shoes," said Araullo.

Beyond looks, however, security still seems to be the foremost concern of lotto winners.

Said Araullo: "They (winners) are always scared to be identified. Some are even afraid to have their photos taken."


Anak, bukas, hindi na tayo magka-kangkong

Recently, an unnamed soldier made the news after being declared the winner in the P87-million 6/49 lotto draw. The soldier was with his brother and father when he claimed his prize.



Araullo bared, however, that the soldier disclosed that it was his brother who actually made the winning bet. But because the brother feared something unfortunate might happen to him if he was declared the winner, he asked his soldier-brother to claim the prize in his behalf.

Lotto winners came from different walks of life – from farmer to businessman. "There was even a time when a banker hit the jackpot," Araullo said.

There is no exact formula for guessing the winning number combination of every draw. Still, Araullo disclosed that from the experience of past lotto winners, the numbers that hit the jackpot the most tend to correspond to dates that were of personal importance to the lotto winner. This could range from birthdates of love ones to anniversary dates, or even a death anniversary date. "*Halos lahat ng nanalo ay may alagang numero* [Majority of the winners had a favored number combination]," remarked Araullo.

Other sources of winning numbers, Araullo revealed, could be those numbers volunteered by friends or relatives, and those supplied by the computer or what is known as the "lucky pick."

A former Citibank executive and now Hong Kong-based businessman offered this tip to lotto players: "Religiously and consistently bet on just one number combination in only one game (6/42 or 6/45 or 6/49). If you bet on every draw for that one game you chose, you will most likely hit the jackpot within three years. The question, however, is how much will the jackpot prize be, by the time your number hits the jackpot?"

Well, this early, it's safe to say it will be in the millions of pesos, at the very least.

Araullo said it takes less than an hour to claim the jackpot prize, which comes in the form of a check. A winner should proceed first to the Internal Audit Department to have the winning ticket verified. Upon verification, the winner will be given a claim form which he/she has to give to the treasury department for check preparation. Araullo serves as one of the two signatories of the check. The other signatory is the PCSO General Manager.

After the check has been prepared and signed by its duly-authorized signatories, the next and final stop would be the waiting hands of the victorious lotto jackpot winner. Happy betting!

Playing catch-up with Lotto?

New sweepstakes gimmick raises player's chance to win from 1 to 30 days

by Darcy Geronimo

WITH LOTTO SALES revenues outstripping the sales take of sweepstakes tickets, officials of the Philippine Charity Sweepstakes Office (PCSO) have come up with a new gimmick that is expected to renew public interest in the sweepstakes.

The new sweepstakes game is called "*Isang sweepstakes tiket, Isang buwang araw-araw papremyo.*" It will make a sold sweepstakes ticket eligible to win for thirty draw days instead of the traditional one ticket-one draw play.

"We have increased the shelf-life of every purchased ticket to 30 days. This translates to increasing a player's chance to win by 30 times for every ticket bought," said Nilo C. Chineuanco, PCSO assistant general manager for marketing.

Chineuanco added that draws will be held daily for 30 days in this new sweepstakes game. Tickets that have already won will still be included in the daily draw.

A jackpot prize of P100,000 and consolation prizes amounting to another P100,000 will be given every day, for a total of about P6.5 million in prizes every month.

Chineuanco reminded sweepstakes players, however, that they have to purchase the tickets before the Daily Sweepstakes Draw for every month begins.

"The ticket is good for a month when it is purchased before the draw month begins," he explained, "But if the ticket is purchased sometime within the month, the number of chances to win decreases, depending on when you purchased the ticket."

Chineuanco further elaborated that daily jackpot prizes not won in particular days will be added to a pot that would be drawn at the end of the month.

PCSO officials hope that the new game will revive public interest in the sweepstakes, which had been temporarily suspended because of poor patronage. They add that the new game is expected to rake in P4.2 million for the agency's Charity Fund.

As stated in the PCSO Charter, 30 percent of all earnings from sweepstakes and lotto sales go to charity. The Charity Fund is the PCSO's sole source of funds used for rendering medical assistance to indigent individuals and for providing endowments to hospitals.

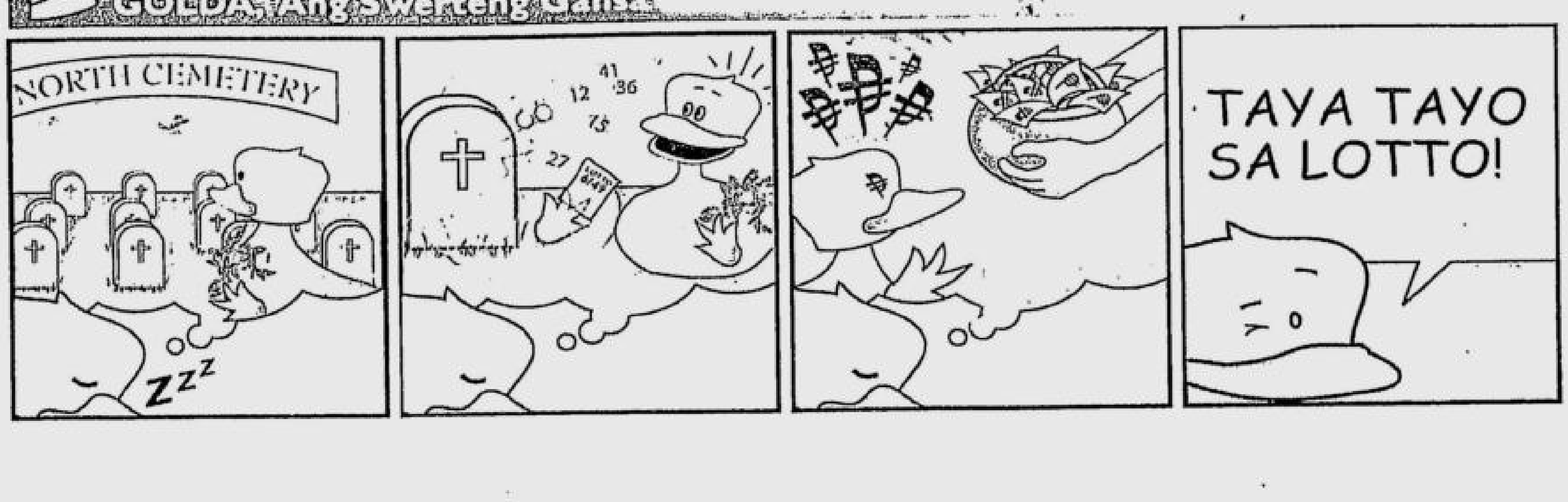
Rey Carlos Concepcion, a computer technician based in upscale Makati, said that the new sweepstakes game is more attractive to the buying public since a person has more chances of winning.

"Bibili ako nito kasi kung kasali ako buong buwan, mas malaki ang tsansa ko na manalo. Mas madaling manalo dito kaysa dun sa dati," said Concepcion.

"*Isang sweepstakes tiket, Isang buwang araw-araw papremyo*" will start in December this year. Marketing and actual selling of the tickets are due next month.

Draws will be held every 4 p.m. at the PCSO Draw Court, PCSO Compound, E. Rodriguez Avenue, Quezon City. All draws will be telecast at 9 p.m. during the Lotto draws at NBN 4.

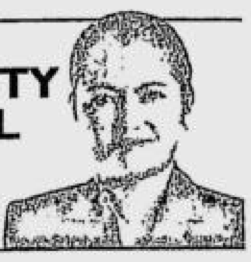
Tickets will be sold through the PCSO Provincial District Offices, Sales Supervisors, Provincial Distributors, Sales Representatives, and Sales Department Tellers.



Gardens of Wisdom from the Internet

(Two ways of interpreting a Chinese folk tale)

HALF-EMPTY HALF-FULL



Rosario C. Uriarte

LAST SATURDAY, an e-mail letter I received from a friend contained a very interesting folk tale. It told of a waterbearer from China who carried water everyday using two earthenware pots – one with a crack on it and the other, in perfect shape. The cracked pot considered itself a miserable failure because it could only carry half the water that the perfect pot could deliver in full. Months later, the cracked pot asked its master why it was still being used to get water. The master answered that the cracked pot, despite its flaw, served him well. For he had planted flower seeds on the side of the road where water from the cracked pot leaked. The seeds yielded fragrant flowers that gave his home color and made his wife very happy. "Without you being just the way you are, there would not be this beauty to grace the house," the water bearer said.

In her letter, my friend said the moral of the story was simple: *We all have our own cracks and flaws. But it is these cracks and flaws that make our lives interesting and rewarding.*

I guess that is one of the moral lessons that can be derived from such a quaint tale. But when I retold the story to another friend of mine, she remarked that it is the water bearer who is the wizard and the source of wisdom in the story. It is the water bearer who assessed the flaw of the cracked pot, found a way to make the pot useful despite its cracks, and most important of all, proceeded to work and eventually, realized the advantage that a leaking cracked pot can bring to an ingenious water bearer.

Funny how situations in life can teach different lessons to different people. Some of us look beyond the flaws and see the individual who, despite being flawed, has a definite purpose or role in society. Some, however, look beyond the flaw and the flawed individual, and focus more on observing, appreciating, and learning from the **processes** that transform flaws and flawed individuals into assets and strengths.

These days, many *Pinoys* seem to liken our nation to the mythical cracked pot in the Chinese folk tale – a nation full of cracks and flaws. One need only to switch to the news channel to find angry viewer comments on corruption and poverty, or some other problem, scrolled at the bottom of the TV screen. And yet, after the fire and fury of anger have been vented, what do most of us do about these problems?

"We go home and drown our disgust in beer," said a male cousin of mine who had complained about the rising crime in the city.

"Nothing," admits a friend, "What can I do, I am just an ordinary person, without money and connections."

I guess those responses more or less depict the range of behavioral options most disgruntled Pinoys take.

Still, there are some who, like the water bearer in the Chinese tale, employ creative solutions to problems most people would just crab about.

Take for example, the women of the Banahaw Sustainable Community Development Center and their *Halamang Buhay: Paykain, Gamot at Pagkakakitaan* project.

Daphne Roxas, executive director of Banahaw SusDev and veteran women's rights activist Justice Leonor Ines Luciano are teaching urban poor women to grow herbs, edible flowers, and vegetables by making the most of the small open spaces in these women's homes. They also train the women in organic farming, garbage recycling, and composting.

"We wanted to help urban poor women keep abreast with the difficult times. We began a dispersal and technology scheme that will allow women to benefit from the plants they raise, without further stressing their environment," said Roxas.

From an initial community of just one in Marikina, Banahaw SusDev now has three communities, each community composed of women's groups that have 10 to 15 members.

And how much does each woman participant earn for her efforts? Banahaw SusDev organizers said the individual income from sold herbs alone range from P750 to P1,500 a month. Of course, there is the added bonus of seeing what was once a row of run-down shacks turn into almost quaint little homes with windows, frontages, and even roofs covered by sweet-smelling basil, peppermint, rosemary, and other green herbs.

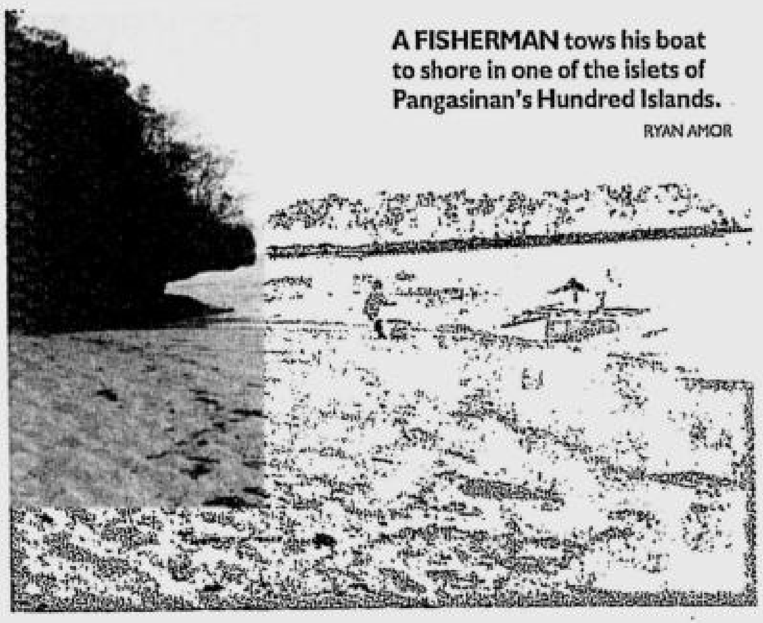
Think about it. Poverty and hunger in poor communities alleviated, not by the government or the church or big business, but by everyday people like you and I - women who took it upon themselves to help solve very real problems and did. Now, if we can only convince more Filipinos to do the same.

Rosario C. Uriarte is the General Manager of the Philippine Charity Sweepstakes Office (PCSO). Kindly e-mail all comments suggestions to mahal_kong_gm@yahoo.com

E-mail: pr_provincial_news@inquirer.com.ph

INQUIRER Northern Luzon

Editor Jun Bandayrel
Bureau Chief Rolando B. Fernandez



A FISHERMAN tows his boat to shore in one of the islets of Pangasinan's Hundred Islands.
RYAN AMOR

A troubled paradise

By Yolanda Sotelo-Fuertes
Alaminos City

TALK of Pangasinan tourism and the Hundred Islands National Park (HINP) in Alaminos City instantly comes to mind.

After all, the Hundred Islands is the province's premier tourist attraction—a diverse ecosystem of overgrown corals that compose the 123 islands and islets and where the sand, sea and sun work together to bring about a variety of flora and fauna.

Every year, the 1,844-hectare HINP attracts thousands of visitors who want to enjoy this wonderful gift of nature. But each year, too, the threats to its ecological beauty become so real that unless authorities strengthen their resolve to protect and conserve it, the country's first national park may just go to waste.

The HINP, declared a national park by President Manuel L. Quezon in 1940, was first managed by the Bureau of Forestry and later, by the Hundred Islands Conservation and Development Authority.

The HICDA then leased it to the provincial government, which turned over its management to the Philippine Tourism Authority in 1980.

When former agrarian reform secretary Hernani Braganza became mayor of the 2-year-old Alaminos this year, he decided that the local government must "co-manage" the HINP, citing the city charter that identified the islands as part of its territory.

Braganza said a memorandum of agreement would be signed by the city government with the PTA and the Department of Environment and Natural Resources for the co-management of the islands.

He said the city had created an "environmentally sustainable" development plan aimed at attracting more tourists to the islands while protecting and sustaining them as a marine reserve and establishing a zoning plan, including a marine sanctuary.

As the city government dreams big of developing the HINP and making Alaminos the "center of tourism and tourist destination in Northern Luzon," it also has to address the ecological problems that threaten the very existence of the islands.

A briefing paper on the HINP cited problems such as insufficient resources for tourism development and environment protection, lack of tourism services and facilities, lack of marketing, poor visitor safety and security system, lack of enforcement of marine reserve guidelines on illegal fishing and poaching of corals, shells, bonsai and lumber, and lack of waste management system.

The paper did not mention the proliferation of commercial and residential establishments within the foreshore area of Lucap (jump-off point to the HINP), proliferation of fish pens, and the conversion of a 46-hectare area into fishponds.

These problems have long been acknowledged by the agencies that agree that the HINP needs conservation and protection from environmental degradation.

When the PTA, DENR and the National Committee of Geological Sciences declared the HINP a "Geological Monument" on Oct. 26, 2001, a ray of hope that the problems would be addressed shone. The efforts, however, came to naught.

Blight

Right smack in the HINP is a 45-hectare area leased to a group of fishermen from Alaminos by the PTA in 1980. The fishermen formed the Bolo Development Cooperative (Bolodeco) to develop a swampy mangrove area within the park into fishponds. The cooperative has 221 members.

In 1993, the Department of Agrarian Reform granted the application of Bolodeco for a certificate of land ownership agreement (Cloa) for the area under the Comprehensive Agrarian Reform Program (CARP). This, despite Executive Order No. 506 issued in 1992 by then President Corazon Aquino, excluding national parks and other protected areas, from segregation, acquisition and distribution by the DAR.

An environmental group said it had a copy of the DENR's initial protected area plan for the reclassification of the HINP from a national park to a protected landscape/seascape.

"In this plan, Bolodeco was shown to be a threat," the group said.

"The presence of the Bolodeco still serves as the major threat to the marine ecosystem of the national park (as it) will eventually result (in) the abundance of organic wastes coming from fish meals. These wastes then upset the marine area's ecological balance, thereby threatening the survival of other marine species and organisms endemic in the area," the group quoted the DENR assessment.

The department has also acknowledged that the fishponds and cages developed by Bolodeco have affected the water quality at the southeastern portion of the park.

"Marine life within the park is threatened by siltation, increase of carbon dioxide, and pollution. Water quality at the recreational islands like Quezon's, Governor's and Children's, is being monitored by the DENR and the Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources," the agency said in its website.

Legal issues also hound Bolodeco's Cloa.

"Can a private cooperative acquire ownership of land within the national park? Is the HINP considered agricultural land that it could be covered by a Cloa? Can a private cooperative be considered a farmer beneficiary for the issuance of Cloa? Did the DAR have an authority to issue that Cloa?" the environmental group asked.

In August 1999, the PTA asked the DAR Adjudication Board (Darab) to declare the Cloa null and void *ab initio* (from the start).

The PTA also asked Bolodeco to surrender the Cloa to the DAR and for the agency to cancel it, to revert the area to public domain, and to issue a permanent injunction against the cooperative in exercising rights of ownership.

Answering the PTA's petition, Bolodeco insisted that the acquisition of the fishponds inside the HINP was aboveboard because two Philippine presidents had authorized the award of the area.

The fishermen claimed that Aquino issued EO 407 in 1990 authorizing the issuance of the Cloa by the DAR. Then President Fidel V. Ramos later authorized the issuance of the original Certificate of Transfer 2077 to Bolodeco, which was registered with the registry of deeds of Pangasinan.

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DESTINATION	FLT NO.	FREQ.	ACFT	ETD	ETA	ONE-WAY FARES NORMAL	VALUE	SMART	LIGHT
TRAVEL VALIDITY						1 YEAR	6 MONTHS	OCT 27 TO DEC 15	
CEBU	5J-557	Daily	DC9	0130	0240	P2,899	P2,569	P2,229	
	5J-559	MO/TU/WE/FR/SA	DC9	0500	0610	P2,899	P2,569	P2,229	
	5J-561	Daily	B757	0700	0810	P2,899	P2,569	P2,229	
	5J-563	Daily	DC9	0900	1010	P2,899	P2,569	P2,229	
	5J-567	Daily	DC9	1300	1410	P2,899	P2,569	P2,229	
	5J-577	WE/TH/SA/SU	B757	1325	1435	P2,899	P2,569	P2,229	P1,299*
	5J-569	Daily	DC9	1500	1610	P2,899	P2,569	P2,229	
	5J-571	Daily	DC9	1700	1810	P2,899	P2,569	P2,229	
	5J-573	WE/TH/FR/SU	DC9	1900	2010	P2,899	P2,569	P2,229	
*not valid for travel on October 30 & 31									
DAVAO	5J-961	Daily	B757	0430	0610	P3,667	P3,239	P2,699	
	5J-963	Daily	B757	1020	1200	P3,667	P3,239	P2,699	
	5J-965	Daily	DC9	1310	1455	P3,667	P3,239	P2,699	
	5J-967	Daily	DC9	1540	1725	P3,667	P3,239	P2,699	
CAGAYAN DE ORO	5J-381	Daily	DC9	0510	0635	P3,645	P3,239	P2,699	
	5J-383	Daily	DC9	0930	1055	P3,645	P3,239	P2,699	
TACLOBAN	5J-651	Daily	DC9	0610	0720	P2,899	P2,569	P2,229	
	5J-655	Daily	DC9	1150	1300	P2,899	P2,569	P2,229	
	5J-657	SU	DC9	1410	1520	P2,899	P2,569	P2,229	
ILOILO	5J-451	Daily	DC9	0520	0620	P2,779	P2,449	P2,229	
	5J-453	Daily	DC9	0640	0740	P2,779	P2,449	P2,229	
	5J-455	Daily	DC9	0900	1000	P2,779	P2,449	P2,229	
	5J-459	Daily	DC9	1540	1640	P2,779	P2,449	P2,229	
BACOLOD	5J-473	Daily	DC9	0510	0615	P2,779	P2,449	P2,229	
	5J-475	Daily	DC9	1000	1105	P2,779	P2,449	P2,229	
	5J-477*	Daily	DC9	1450	1555	P2,779	P2,449	P2,229	
	5J-479	Daily	DC9	1650	1755	P2,779	P2,449	P2,229	
*effective until November 03									
ZAMBOANGA	5J-851	Daily	DC9	0520	0655	P3,667	P3,239	P2,579	
ROXAS	5J-373	Daily	DC9	0500	0555	P2,539	P2,149	P1,999	
DUMAGUETE	5J-625	MO/WE/FR	DC9	0520	0635	P2,899	P2,569	P2,279	
	5J-627	Daily	DC9	1235	1350	P2,899	P2,569	P2,279	
KALIBO	5J-339	MO/WE/SA	DC9	0920	1010	P2,899	P2,569	P2,229	
	5J-341	TU/TH/FR/SU	DC9	1115	1205	P2,899	P2,569	P2,229	
BUTUAN	5J-787	TU/TH/FR/SU	DC9	0920	1045	P3,645	P3,239	P2,699	
	5J-*/223	MO/WE/SA	DC9		1200	P3,645	P3,239	P2,699	
*via Cebu 5J-557/559/561/563									
PUERTO PRINCESA	5J-637	Daily	DC9	0845	0955	P2,899	P2,499	P2,279	
	5J-*/277	T/TH/FR/SU	DC9		1225	P2,899	P2,499	P2,279	
*via Cebu 5J-557/559/561/563									
SUBIC	5J-104	TH/SU	B757	1530	1600		P500		
	5J-104*	TH	B757	1500	1530		P500		
	5J-104*	SU	B757	1520	1550		P500		
*new schedule effective November 08									
TAGBILARAN	5J-619	Daily	DC9	0715	0835	P2,899	P2,569	P2,279	

ORIGIN: CEBU

DESTINATION	FLT NO.	FREQ.	ACFT	ETD	ETA	ONE-WAY FARES NORMAL	VALUE	SMART	LIGHT
TRAVEL VALIDITY						1 YEAR	6 MONTHS	OCT 27 TO DEC 15	
MANILA	5J-556	MO/TH/FR/SU	B757	0300	0410	P2,899	P2,569	P2,229	P1,299
	5J-558	Daily	DC9	0400	0510	P2,899	P2,569	P2,229	P1,299
	5J-560	MO/TU/WE/FR/SA	DC9	0700	0810	P2,899	P2,569	P2,229	
	5J-562	Daily	B757	0900	1010	P2,899	P2,569	P2,229	
	5J-564	Daily	DC9	1245	1355	P2,899	P2,569	P2,229	
	5J-568	Daily	DC9	1500	1610	P2,899	P2,569	P2,229	
	5J-570	Daily	DC9	1700	1810	P2,899	P2,569	P2,229	
	5J-572	Daily	DC9	1900	2010	P2,899	P2,569	P2,229	
	5J-574	WE/TH/FR/SU	DC9	2100	2210	P2,899	P2,569	P2,229	
DAVAO	5J-593	Daily	DC9	0935	1030	P2,589	P2,249		
	5J-597	Daily	DC9	1450	1545	P2,589	P2,249		
BUTUAN	5J-223	MO/WE/SA	DC9	1120	1200	P1,839	P1,499		
PUERTO PRINCESA	5J-227	TU/TH/FR/SU	DC9	1115	1225	P2,899	P2,499		
ZAMBOANGA	5J-431	MO/WE/FR/SA	DC9	0910	1005	P2,649	P2,319		
BACOLOD	5J-126	Daily	DC9	0820	0855	P1,879	P1,539		
ILOILO	5J-164	Daily	DC9	1710	1745	P2,099	P1,759		

ORIGIN: DAVAO

DESTINATION	FLT NO.	FREQ.	ACFT	ETD	ETA	ONE-WAY FARES NORMAL	VALUE	SMART	LIGHT
TRAVEL VALIDITY						1 YEAR	6 MONTHS	OCT 27 TO DEC 15	
MANILA	5J-962	Daily	B757	0740	0920	P3,667	P3,239	P2,699	
	5J-964	Daily	B757	1300	1440	P3,667	P3,239	P2,699	
	5J-966	Daily	DC9	1625	1810	P3,667	P3,239	P2,699	
	5J-968	Daily	DC9	1805	1950	P3,667	P3,239	P2,699	
CEBU	5J-594	Daily	DC9	1110	1205	P2,589	P2,249		
	5J-598	Daily	DC9	1535	1630	P2,589	P2,249		
ILOILO	5J-598/164*	Daily	DC9	1535	1745	P3,645	P3,195		
*via Cebu									
ZAMBOANGA	5J-393	TU/TH/SU	DC9	0910	1005	P2,649	P2,319		

ORIGIN: ROXAS

DESTINATION	FLT NO.	FREQ.	ACFT	ETD	ETA	ONE-WAY FARES NORMAL	VALUE	SMART	LIGHT
TRAVEL VALIDITY						1 YEAR	6 MONTHS	OCT 27 TO DEC 15	
MANILA	5J-374	Daily	DC9	0700	0755	P2,539	P2,149	P1,999	

ORIGIN: ZAMBOANGA

DESTINATION	FLT NO.	FREQ.	ACFT	ETD	ETA	ONE-WAY FARES NORMAL	VALUE	SMART	LIGHT
TRAVEL VALIDITY						1 YEAR	6 MONTHS	OCT 27 TO DEC 15	
MANILA	*5J-852	Daily	DC9	1045	1220	P3,667	P3,239	P2,579	
CEBU	5J-432	MO/WE/TH/SA	DC9	0735	0830	P2,649	P2,319		
DAVAO	5J-394	TU/TH/SU	DC9	0735	0830	P2,649	P2,319		

ORIGIN: BACOLOD

DESTINATION	FLT NO.	FREQ.	ACFT	ETD	ETA	ONE-WAY FARES NORMAL	VALUE	SMART	LIGHT
TRAVEL VALIDITY						1 YEAR	6 MONTHS	OCT 27 TO DEC 15	
MANILA	5J-474	Daily	DC9	0945	1050	P2,779	P2,449	P2,229	
	5J-476	Daily	DC9	1155	1300	P2,779	P2,449	P2,229	
	5J-478*	Daily	DC9	1645	1750	P2,779	P2,449	P2,229	
	5J-480	Daily	DC9	1845	1950	P2,779	P2,449	P2,229	
*effective until November 03									
CEBU	5J-125	Daily	DC9	0705	0740	P1,879	P1,539		

ORIGIN: BUTUAN

DESTINATION	FLT NO.	FREQ.	ACFT	ETD	ETA	ONE-WAY FARES NORMAL	VALUE	SMART	LIGHT
TRAVEL VALIDITY						1 YEAR	6 MONTHS	OCT 27 TO DEC 15	
MANILA	5J-788	TU/TH/FR/SU	DC9	1155	1250	P3,645	P3,239	P2,699	
	5J-224/*	MO/WE/SA	DC9	1310		P3,645	P3,239	P2,699	
*via Cebu 5J 568/570/572/574									
CEBU	5J-224	MO/WE/SA	DC9	1310	1350	P1,839	P1,499		

ORIGIN: ILOILO

DESTINATION	FLT NO.	FREQ.	ACFT	ETD	ETA	ONE-WAY FARES NORMAL	VALUE	SMART	LIGHT
TRAVEL VALIDITY						1 YEAR	6 MONTHS	OCT 27 TO DEC 15	
MANILA	5J-452	Daily	DC9	0700	0800	P2,779	P2,449	P2,229	
	5J-456	Daily	DC9	1040	1140	P2,779	P2,449	P2,229	
	5J-460	Daily	DC9	1720	1820	P2,779	P2,449	P2,229	
	5J-462	Daily	DC9	1830	1930	P2,779	P2,449	P2,229	
CEBU	5J-161	Daily	DC9	0820	0855	P2,099	P1,759		
DAVAO	5J-161/593*	Daily	DC9	0820	1030	P3,645	P3,195		
*via Cebu									

ORIGIN: TACLOBAN

DESTINATION	FLT NO.	FREQ.	ACFT	ETD	ETA	ONE-WAY FARES NORMAL	VALUE	SMART	LIGHT
TRAVEL VALIDITY						1 YEAR	6 MONTHS	OCT 27 TO DEC 15	
MANILA	5J-652	Daily	DC9	0800	0910	P2,899	P2,569	P2,229	
	5J-656	Daily	DC9	1340	1450	P2,899	P2,569	P2,229	
	5J-658	SU	DC9	1600	1710	P2,899	P2,569	P2,229	

ORIGIN: DUMAGUETE

DESTINATION	FLT NO.	FREQ.	ACFT	ETD	ETA	ONE-WAY FARES NORMAL	VALUE	SMART	LIGHT
TRAVEL VALIDITY						1 YEAR	6 MONTHS	OCT 27 TO DEC 15	
MANILA	5J-626	MO/WE/FR	DC9	0715	0830	P2,899	P2,569	P2,279	
	5J-628	Daily	DC9	1430	1545	P2,899	P2,569	P2,279	

ORIGIN: CAGAYAN DE ORO

DESTINATION	FLT NO.	FREQ.	ACFT	ETD	ETA	ONE-WAY FARES NORMAL	VALUE	SMART	LIGHT
TRAVEL VALIDITY						1 YEAR	6 MONTHS	OCT 27 TO DEC 15	
MANILA	5J-382	Daily	DC9	0715	0840	P3,645	P3,239	P2,699	
	5J-384	Daily	DC9	1135	1300	P3,645	P3,239	P2,699	

ORIGIN: KALIBO

DESTINATION	FLT NO.	FREQ.	ACFT	ETD	ETA	ONE-WAY FARES NORMAL	VALUE	SMART	LIGHT
TRAVEL VALIDITY						1 YEAR	6 MONTHS	OCT 27 TO DEC 15	
MANILA	5J-340	MO/WE/SA	DC9	1050	1140	P2,899	P2,569	P2,229	
	5J-342	TU/TH/FR/SU	DC9	1245	1335	P2,899	P2,569	P2,229	

ORIGIN: PUERTO PRINCESA

DESTINATION	FLT NO.	FREQ.	ACFT	ETD	ETA	ONE-WAY FARES NORMAL	VALUE	SMART	LIGHT
TRAVEL VALIDITY						1 YEAR	6 MONTHS	OCT 27 TO DEC 15	
MANILA	5J-638	Daily	DC9	1035	1145	P2,899	P2,499	P2,279	
	5J-228/*	TU/TH/FR/SU	DC9	1305		P2,899	P2,499	P2,279	
*via Cebu 5J 568/570/572/574									
CEBU	5J-228	TU/TH/FR/SU	DC9	1305	1415	P2,899	P2,499		

ORIGIN: SUBIC

DESTINATION	FLT NO.	FREQ.	ACFT	ETD	ETA	ONE-WAY FARES NORMAL	VALUE	SMART	LIGHT
TRAVEL VALIDITY						1 YEAR	6 MONTHS	OCT 27 TO DEC 15	
MANILA	5J-105	FR	B757	0240	0310		P500		
	5J-105	SU	B757	0340	0410		P500		

ORIGIN: TAGBILARAN

DESTINATION	FLT NO.	FREQ.	ACFT	ETD	ETA	ONE-WAY FARES NORMAL	VALUE	SMART	LIGHT
TRAVEL VALIDITY						1 YEAR	6 MONTHS	OCT 27 TO DEC 15	
MANILA	5J-620	Daily	DC9	0915	1035	P2,899	P2,569	P2,279	

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- Insurance surcharge of P250.00/sector is applicable to all fare types
- Airport fees and terminal fees are not included in ticket fares
- Child's fare and other regular discounts are applicable to Normal Fares only
- All fares are subject to government approval and are exclusive of government tax
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CONDITIONS OF FARES:

SMART PURCHASE FARE (YSP)
- REFUNDABLE, REROUTABLE AND UPGRADABLE to valid higher fare type, but subject to applicable surcharges and collection of fare differential
- No other discounts shall apply
- Seats are limited

LIGHT PURCHASE FARE (YLP)
- No open dated ticket shall be issued. Go show shall not be allowed.
- REBOOKABLE but subject to a rebooking fee of Php100 per transaction
- Strictly NON-REFUNDABLE. However, in case of upgraded ticket only the fare differential shall be refunded
- NON-REROUTABLE. However, UPGRADABLE to valid higher fare type but subject to applicable surcharges and collection of fare differential. In case of ticket upgrade, MCO must be used to cover for the fare differential. ticket reissuance is not permitted
- No other discounts shall apply
- Seats are limited.
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Princess stark simple in dinner to raise ₱20M

From page A1

oline is president.

Amade Mondiale, which means World Association of Children's Friends, was founded by the princess' mother, the iconic Hollywood actress Grace Kelly.

The organizers' target was a whopping P20 million that evening. They didn't get that, just a bit close to that. The money should continue supporting the 12 houses put up to house about 300 disadvantaged children and help build more.

It must have been Metro Manila society's first experience on how royalty uses its cachet for humanitarian causes, everywhere.

Guests pay the tab to be amid royalty—in this case, P50,000, P20,000 or P10,000 per plate, depending on one's proximity to the royal table.

Now, to be seated with Princess Caroline, it cost P1 million.

The Makati Shangri-La ballroom wasn't packed. There was generous space between tables, with the "poor" P10,000 per plate tables set up on the platforms near the ballroom walls, with the higher-priced tables spread out closer to the center where the Princess' table was.

Among those at the Princess' table Monday night were Paeng and Mely Hechanova, Nedy Tantoco, Rico Tantoco, Amade Mondiale head in Manila lawyer Eric Mallonga, longtime Amade benefactor Dr. Stephen Zuellig and BMW president Dr. Jorg Breuer.

So Chanel

The ballroom's décor wasn't opulent, either. Robert Biancaflor just decked the tables with elegant white roses. So Chanel, the princess' favored designer.

The royal herself was no pomp and pageantry. One look at her and it became obvious to the guests how simple she was.

A muse of Karl Lagerfeld for Chanel, she was in austere black, her hair a traditional bob. She is an icon following in the footsteps of her mom, the late Princess Grace, who herself was behind Amade Mondiale and who, as the Hollywood goddess Grace Kelly, was one of the icons of the 20th century.

Woman of style

Princess Caroline has grown quite a distance from just being one of the world's women of style. From being on the world's best dressed list, she plunged into humanitarian work for children worldwide.

On this trip, the Princess apparently traveled light. She was alone on the flight, her two bodyguards flying in ahead of her to meet her at the airport. She had only one piece of luggage—"but the real one, not fake," said a wag.

Yoga

At her private dinner with the Virlanie Foundation and the event committee organizers, held on her first night here, she came in a Chanel suit in black and white, a cross pendant being her only accessory.

At some moments she shared a smoke with some event committee insiders. Asked if her hectic schedule wore her down, she said she did yoga and that seemed enough.

Committed Filipinos

Lemay first came to Manila in 1988 and made his commitment to help the street children. In the early '90s, the Kuok matriarch, Puan Sri Eileen Kuok, introduced Marietta Santos to Lemay and asked Marietta to help Lemay start the foundation for Filipino children. Marietta has been with the foundation since then and was one of the movers of this event, for which she tapped the support of Meldy Cojuangco, banker Raul Manzano and Mary Prieto.

Strong speech

Inno Sotto showed his collection, the same one from the Ayala Museum. A counterpoint to the fashion show was the speech of Princess Caroline to cap the night. It was strong and didn't mince words as she stressed the importance of children in our future—the children, she said, are the essence of a country's and the world's future.

But more than that, she stressed the importance of protecting children's rights and punishing violations against them. She was emphatic about applying the full force of the law for the protection of children.

After her speech, hardly had the royal returned to her seat than the Pinoy gave vent to his passion—"kodakan." Truly Pinoy.

Military enraged by Miriam charges

From page A1

"unexplained wealth."

J-1 is for Personnel; J-2, Intelligence; J-3, Operations; J-4, Logistics; J-5, Plans; J-6, Comptroller; J-7, Civil Military Operations; J-8, Training; J-9, AFP Modernization; K-10, Reservists, and J-11, Communications.

Tone down attacks

In a statement, President Macapagal-Arroyo asked political leaders to tone down their attacks on the military.

"We are determined to bring grafters to justice in the Armed Forces but I would like to appeal, in fairness to the Filipino soldier and the command, for a good measure of rhetorical restraint among our political leaders," Ms Arroyo, the commander in chief of the Armed Forces, said.

The President said she had ordered court-martial proceedings against Garcia to start at once and vowed to "leave no stone unturned in the full investigation and trial" of corrupt military officers. "But let us not drench the uniform in dishonor for the wayward acts of a few."

Charged with 'idiocy'

Adan's statements did not sit well with Santiago.

The senator said the AFP spokesperson was accusing her of treason. "I am accusing him of idiocy."

"(T)he term enemies of a state has a historical connotation of oppression and tyranny, that those who hold the military might are intimidating the population when they invent the fiction of the so-called enemy of the state," Santiago said.

She told Adan that he should not expect to be confirmed by the Commission on Appointments, which will have an organizational meeting today. "He can therefore forget all about becoming a lieutenant general."

Lowest in AFP food chain

Santiago called Adan an "anonymous little insect" and the "lowest official in the food chain in the AFP" for saying that her exposé on Monday was "way off line."

She said Adan had no right to stay "a minute longer" because he was defending "the vested, corrupt interest in the military."

Adan also said that "the good senator might have forgotten that she had a brother who became chief of staff. I don't know what she meant when she said it is only her brother who is clean."

Santiago said it was below the belt. Under the rules of debate and argumentation, "you should stick to the issue and never discuss personalities," she said.

Adan added that Santiago's accusations were "not substantiated."

'Cowardly' tipsters

He said Santiago's "tipsters," who he said might also be officers, should "come out in the open instead of cowardly going to just any politician. The solutions should come from the inside with the help of other institutions."

Adan said the AFP was already crafting plans to correct the problems that had been identified by the Davide Commission and the Feliciano Commission. The commissions, which were formed after the coup attempts by the Reform the Armed Forces Movement during the Aquino administration and the coup staged by the Magdalo coup last year, respectively, had identified the problems facing the AFP.

Adan said the problems of the AFP could not be solved overnight and likened the AFP to a large ship trying to come to a full stop. "Before it could stop it must first glide slowly. You cannot have an abrupt stop."

No rush to the defense

Earlier in the day, Malacañang made clear it won't rush to the defense of the top 12 military officials whom Santiago accused of corruption.

In an RMN interview yesterday morning, presidential spokesperson Ignacio Bunye said it was up to the military officials to explain their positions on Santiago's exposé.

"We cannot defend them because the President's position on graft in government is very clear," Bunye said. He said the President did not condone corruption in any branch of the government.

Independent commission

In the Senate, Santiago's proposal to create an independent commission to "investigate and reform" the Armed Forces is gaining support.

Taking a cue from the privilege speech of Santiago, Senate Majority Leader Francis Pangilinan yesterday filed Senate Bill No. 1823 to give flesh to the proposal and establish "rules of procedure" for the fact-finding commission.

Under the bill, the commission will have the power to examine any bank deposit, trust or investment fund, and banking transaction. It will be composed of a retired Supreme Court justice, two senators, two congressmen, a retired AFP official and a private sector representative.

With reports from Juliet Labog-Javellana and Christine O. Avendaño

Biazon won't inhibit in Senate probe

ALTHOUGH he had thought of inhibiting himself from the Senate inquiry, Sen. Rodolfo Biazon said he would proceed to chair one of two Senate committees tasked with investigating Sen. Miriam Defensor-Santiago's claim of systematic corruption in the military.

Biazon said this was because Santiago had somehow cleared him of involvement in her accusation that the AFP was run by a "Gang of 12."

Santiago's speech was referred to the Senate committees on finance and on national defense.

Biazon, who chairs the national defense committee, said he had thought of inhibiting himself from the hearing because he had served as AFP chief of staff in the Aquino administration.

But he sought the advice of Santiago about this during the interpellation on her speech. Santiago told him to proceed with investigating her accusations in his committee.

Senate Minority Leader Aquilino Pimentel Jr., for his part, urged Defense Secretary Avelino Cruz to "seize the initiative in dismantling the web of corruption" in the AFP instead of staying on the sidelines and relying on other officials to do the job.

Pimentel said that Cruz, who took over the helm of the Department of National Defense more than two months ago, could not do a Pontius Pilate on the unexplained wealth charges against Garcia and other ranking AFP officers.

"Secretary Cruz has been keeping a sphinx-like silence over the scandal and I am wondering why. If he keeps acting that way, he will be marginalized not only in the eyes of the Armed Forces but also in the eyes of the people," he said.

Garcia withdrew P38M two days after story broke

From page A1

no court order yet," he told reporters.

Osmeña was referring to the absence of a freeze order at that time on the bank accounts of Garcia.

The eight bank accounts in the UCPB were in the name of Garcia, his wife Clarita and their children Ian Carl, 26; Juan Paolo, 23, and Timothy Mark, 21.

Six of the bank accounts were peso deposits amounting to P21.6 million, while two others were dollar deposits with a peso equivalent of P17 million.

Garcia's bank account had P4.6 million; his sons Timothy, Ian Clark and Juan Paolo had P4.28 million each, and his wife had P1 million.

The two dollar accounts were in the name of Garcia and his wife with balances of $101,169 and $202,338, respectively.

'Suspicious' accounts

Osmeña said the UCPB branch reported via e-mail to the UCPB anti-money laundering unit the existence of Garcia's bank accounts on Oct. 6, a day after news reports came out on the corruption charges against the former AFP comptroller.

But it was only on Oct. 12 that UCPB reported to the Amla in the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas about the bank accounts, he said.

US assets frozen

The Office of the Ombudsman has asked the US Department of Justice to freeze all the assets of Garcia and his family in the United States, including deposits in banks and various real estate properties.

"We have asked the US government through the US Embassy to freeze the assets of the Garcias in the US," Ombudsman Simeon Marcelo told the INQUIRER during a break in the Inter-Agency Anti-Graft Coordinating Council conference sponsored by the Presidential Anti-Graft Commission and the United Nations Development Program (UNDP).

The Ombudsman's letter was addressed to Jeffrey Cole, the US justice attache at the US Embassy in Manila.

"We are asking the US DOJ to freeze the assets of the Garcias, subject to the existing rules and regulations of the US," said the Ombudsman official who sent the letter to Cole.

According to the official, who asked not to be named, the US justice and customs offices were already investigating the assets of Garcia in the United States.

A report by the Office of the Ombudsman said the Garcias brought some P44 million into the US between 1993 and 2004.

The Anti-Money Laundering Council (AMLC) had identified three pieces of real estate owned by Garcia in the United States—a $765,000 Trump Park Avenue Condominium at 502 Park Avenue, New York City; a $750,000 apartment at 222 East 34th Street, also in New York City, and a house at 625 Vancouver Drive, Westerville, Ohio, of undetermined value.

Local assets, too

At the same time, the Ombudsman has started moves to seize the local assets of the Garcias.

The official said the Office of the Ombudsman may file by this week the forfeiture case against the Garcias in the Sandiganbayan.

The Court of Appeals froze 40 bank accounts and investment placements of the Garcias on Oct 14.

These included seven accounts in Land Bank of the Philippines, 12 accounts in Allied Banking Corp., one account at Banco de Oro Universal Bank, two accounts in Bank of the Philippine Islands, eight accounts in United Coconut Planters Bank, six accounts at Planters Development Bank and four in the Armed Forces and Police Savings and Loan Association Inc.

But many of the accounts were reportedly closed on "one day" between Oct. 7 and Oct. 14.

Amend Amla

Osmeña said he would push for the amendment of the Anti-Money Laundering Act to ensure that the AMLC would move faster in freezing suspicious bank accounts.

He also said that UCPB should have reported Garcia's bank accounts earlier since they contained money deemed "suspicious" given the huge amounts.

"And obviously when you have in one branch alone the equivalent of P38 million ... that is cause for suspicion and they never reported this," Osmeña said, as he admitted that the bank could be held liable for it.

Osmeña said because of the Garcia case, he doubted whether the Financial Action Task Force would remove the Philippines from its watchlist of countries not cooperating in the global fight against money laundering.

30-man special audit team

Marcelo said he would start next week the formation of an inter-agency team that would conduct a "special fraud audit" of "all military contracts" inked by the Armed Forces of the Philippines with contractors and suppliers during Garcia's tenure as AFP comptroller from 2001 to 2004.

The special audit team will be made up of 25 to 30 personnel from the Ombudsman, the Commission on Audit, the Department of Justice and the Civil Service Commission.

Marcelo said he hoped to complete the formation of the audit team next month.

He said the special audit would not only look into the military contracts during Garcia's time, but also those contracts forged earlier by other officials in the military, private contractors and suppliers.

"We will see the transactions and if we see any irregularities, we will see who was involved," he said.

Extradition

In a separate interview, Marcelo said that members of the Garcia family in the United States also faced possible extradition to the Philippines should their investigation show there is clear evidence of their culpability.

"Their criminal acts were done here," he said of the strong likelihood of the Garcias being extradited.

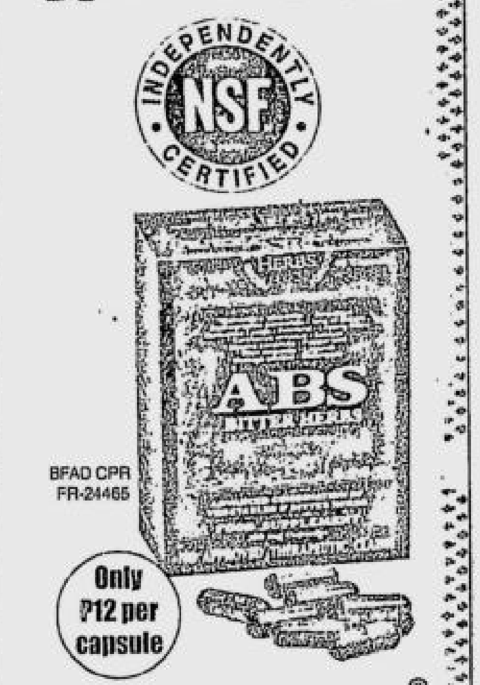
Marcelo said he also sent subpoenas to the members of the Garcia family in the US to explain their alleged ill-gotten wealth. But the Garcias replied by asking for the dismissal of the complaint filed against them, Marcelo said.

Plunder

According to him, his office was about to wrap up its preliminary investigation of the perjury and unexplained wealth charges against the Garcias in the Sandiganbayan.

As to a possible case of plunder against the Garcias, he said the matter was still the subject of a fact-finding investigation by the Ombudsman.

Asthma?
Arthritis?
Diabetes?
Hypertension?



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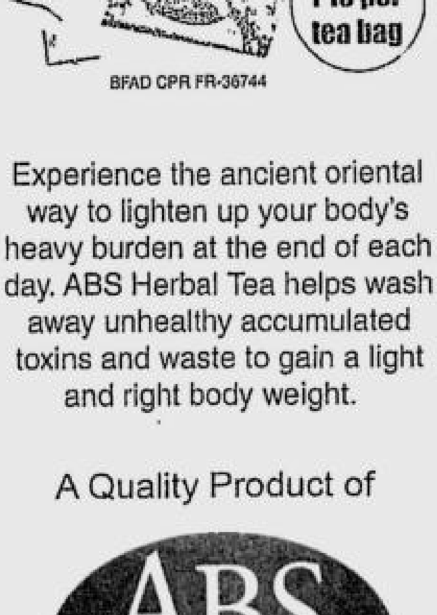

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Davide: Don't just stand there, help fight graft

DON'T stand on the sidelines. You, too, can help fight corruption by turning into a whistle-blower.

Noting the nation's "shock" at reports on the unexplained wealth of a senior Armed Forces officer, Chief Justice Hilario Davide urged citizens yesterday to share whatever information they had about grafters, saying their indifference made them as guilty as the corrupt officials they condemned.

"'In waging this war [on corruption], every bit of knowledge and information concerning the enemy would be valuable to give us an advantage over it and crash it in shameful and lasting defeat," he said.

Still in touch

Davide mentioned no one by name but he left little doubt as to who he was referring to when he said that the "nation is still in shock over reports of graft and corruption committed by a high ranking official of the Philippine military."

Davide's speech at a conference held by the United Nations Development Program coincided with a congressional inquiry into the alleged unexplained wealth of former Armed Forces comptroller Maj. Gen. Carlos Garcia.

One lawmaker had estimated Garcia's assets at about P200 million.

"Doing nothing when we could have done something good and right is no different from committing the evil act itself," said the chief magistrate.

Sin of omission

"The sin of omission is as grave as the sin of commission," he said.

Davide spoke at the UNDP forum dubbed "Tapat Palakad," a series of multi-sectoral fora and workshops on government reforms.

Yesterday's conference held at the Edsa Shangri-La Hotel focused on the anticorruption campaign, with an audience that included government auditors, civil service officials and graft investigators.

Davide conceded that the Philippines was now stuck with the "perception" that it was a graft-ridden country, especially in the wake of an international survey which ranked it as the 11th most corrupt among 146 states.

The ranking has already created such a negative image for the country "whether it is founded on reliable empirical data or not," he said.

Miriam fires guns . . .

From page A1

to declare [their] status as corrupt generals' wives," Santiago said.

Responding to Santiago's scorching speech on Monday, Gen. Narciso Abaya yesterday said that contrary to the picture painted by the senator that the military had become a milking cow for the top brass, he had actually imposed "austerity" measures during his two-year term as AFP chief of staff.

For one thing, it was not true that the AFP holds ballroom dancing parties, Abaya said at a conference on the anticorruption campaign of the United Nations Development Program, where he was one of the invited speakers.

"Never in my time did we have ballroom dancing or hired DIs (dance instructors) because I was so afraid of my wife," he said, managing to make light of the matter and drawing laughs from an audience that included state auditors and graft investigators.

Abaya also said he had actually "cut down on certain events and socials," scrapping even the "extravagant" annual AFP Olympics in order to reduce expenses.

Trial by publicity

According to Abaya, who is set to retire in two days, the military has fallen victim to "trial by publicity and political grandstanding."

He said he had been "personally devastated" by the controversy stemming from the unexplained wealth of the former AFP comptroller, Maj. Gen. Carlos Garcia, more so because it erupted as he was about to retire.

He also said the issue had been "covered more than enough" in the media and had been "muddled by speculation and innuendos."

If Garcia's case is "left hanging and unresolved, it is our officers, men and women, who will continue to be victims of disrespect by those whose perceptions are shaped by trial by publicity and political grandstanding," Abaya said.

In her privilege speech, Santiago said the AFP was being run by the "Gang of 12" composed of the chief of staff and his 11 staff generals (J-1 to J-11).

She said some of these generals who had turned politician "ceaselessly try until now to cover themselves with synthetic glory, by using their ill-gotten wealth to continue to publicize themselves."

She also said the alleged gang was leading the "Mafia" or the "mob" in the AFP that had institutionalized corruption since the martial law days through the unlawful practices of "clearance" and "conversion."

This corruption, she said, had resulted in yearly losses to the AFP of about P2 billion.

Euphemisms

Santiago had defined "clearance" and "conversion" as euphemisms for the crimes of, respectively, falsification of public documents and malversation of public funds (or plunder if the amount pocketed is at least P50 million).

She said J-3 (Operations) was the "richest source of graft money," and J-4 (Logistics), the "most conspicuous venue for graft" because its office was filled daily with "Filipino-Chinese, sexy and trashy women, and the special friends of wives of corrupt generals."

In her privilege speech, Santiago cited an example in J-1 (Personnel), which is in charge of salaries, hospitals and welfare.

"The welfare funds, instead of being spent for the welfare of soldiers and their families, are 'realigned,' a euphemism for canceling the welfare project and purportedly using the money for another project or activity, which is fictitious," she said.

By her account, the biggest anomaly in J-1 takes place in military hospitals.

"Medicines are grossly overpriced, but the syndicate concentrates on purchasing only fast-moving drugs, making it very hard to check the inventory and the consumption of drugs. Military hospitals are the favorite milking cow of wives of chiefs of staff," she said.

Santiago said that if "Mrs. Chief of Staff" consented to become the patron of a certain medicine supplier, she would contact the hospital commander to extend the usual courtesies to this supplier.

"Usual courtesies" is a military euphemism for rigging the bidding in favor of the identified medicine supplier, the senator said, adding:

"When the supplier duly 'wins' the bidding, sometimes he delivers no drugs at all. Instead, Mrs. Chief of Staff will receive a cash reward of more or less P100 million."

Millions in savings

Abaya said that when he took over, he inherited an P83-million phone bill that had accumulated since 1993.

For this, he said, he ordered scores of phone lines cut starting with Camp Aguinaldo, the AFP General Headquarters. The camp alone has been saving around P400,000 a month on phone bills since then, he reported.

He also closed down the offices of four defense attachés abroad, saving the AFP another "P5 million a month."

And to conserve expensive ammunition, he said, he also did away with the gun salutes traditionally performed for chiefs of staff as part of arrival honors.

Addressing his fellow career government officials, Abaya said: "You can probably empathize with or relate to my experience. Corruption has a way of destroying the names, careers and reputations not only of the corrupt and the [corrupted], but also those of the innocent and well-meaning.

Unfounded rumors

"Specially when unfounded rumors find their way in big bold prints to [the newspapers'] front pages, while the rectification of errors and apologies [land] on the seldom read pages."

SC rules court-martial . . .

From page A1

over them and they asked the high court to order their immediate release.

The tribunal, however, agreed with the Office of the Solicitor General that Pimentel had erred in his ruling.

It said that the soldiers' Sept. 23, 2003, omnibus motion asking Pimentel to assume jurisdiction over the charges lodged against them in the military court had been made "moot and academic" by the Nov. 14 decision of Judge Romeo Barza to dismiss the charges against the 290 mutineers for lack of evidence.

"It had become moot with respect to those whose charges against them were dismissed, including (the petitioners), because they were no longer parties to the case," the high court said.

No solace for mutineers

"Indeed, as they were no longer parties to the case, no further relief could be granted to them," it added.

Barza initially tried the case against the soldiers before it was consolidated with the case against former Executive Secretary Ramon Cardenas in Pimentel's sala.

"Thus, (the petitioners), who are no longer charged with coup d'etat, cannot find solace in the declaration (of Pimentel) that the charges filed before the general court-martial against them were not service-connected," the high court said.

Superfluity

"The same is a superfluity and cannot be given effect for having been made by (Pimentel) without or in excess of (his) jurisdiction."

The high court also pointed out that Pimentel's order violated Republic Act No. 7055, which "explicitly specifies" that the charges against the soldiers were considered "service-connected crimes or offenses."

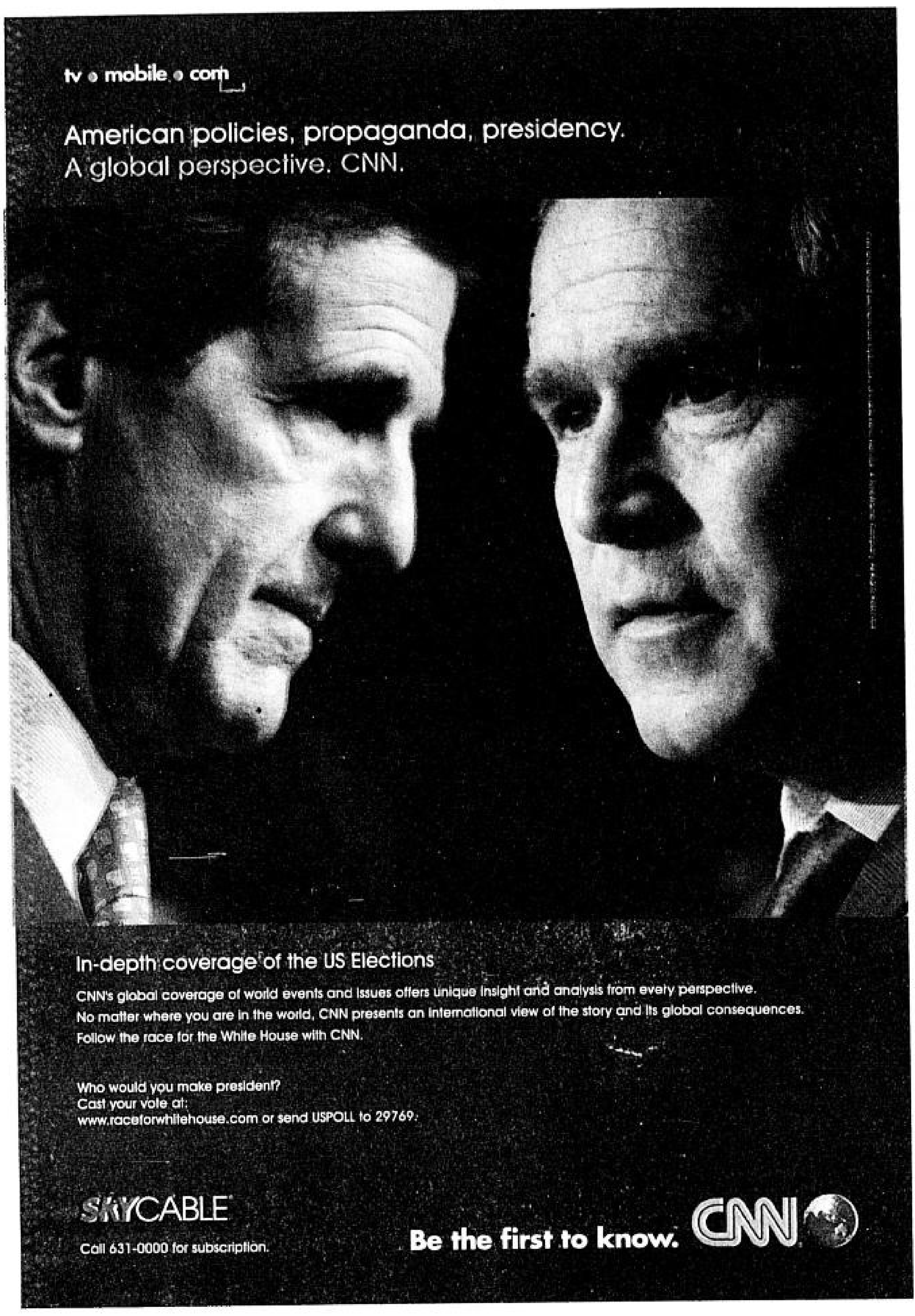
It added that the law "vests on military courts" the jurisdiction over these offenses.

The soldiers were earlier charged with mutiny (Articles of War 67); conduct prejudicial to good order and military discipline (AW 97); conduct unbecoming an officer and a gentleman (AW 96); disrespect to the President, the Secretary of Defense, etc (AW 63), and disrespect toward superior officer (AW 64).

Mandate

"It is clear ... that RA 7055 did not divest the military courts of jurisdiction to try cases involving violations of Articles 54 to 70, Articles 72 to 92 and Articles 95 to 97 of the Articles of War as these are considered 'service-connected crimes or offenses'," the court said.

"In fact, it mandates that these shall be tried by the court-martial," it added.



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Security, traffic schemes in place for Nov. 1

EXTRA security measures and alternate routes are in place in anticipation of the crush of people on their way to cemeteries in the metropolis to visit their departed relatives on Nov. 1 or All Saints' Day, a regular holiday.

Malacañang, however, said Nov. 2, All Souls' Day, is a working day, upon the recommendation of the Department of Labor and Employment. Wage earners would be deprived of a day's wage if Nov. 2 were declared a holiday, according to the Palace.

The public and private sectors, on the other hand, can look forward to a long weekend on Nov. 30, Bonifacio Day. Instead of observing the holiday on a Tuesday, the holiday would be observed on Monday.

Police authorities have also included bus and ship terminals in their watch.

National Capital Region Police Office Director Avelino Razon Jr. said personnel manning the five satellite police stations currently detailed in strategic areas of the metropolis would be sent to big cemeteries on Nov. 1.

The mobile stations are manned by at least 16 policemen. Apart from a commander, each bus has an investigator and a women's desk officer. The stations are in Monumento (Caloocan City), Baclaran (Parañaque City), SM Megamall (Mandaluyong City), Cubao (Quezon City) and Recto (Manila).

The buses also have makeshift detention cells for arrested suspects.

Medical teams would also be on board the police buses, and policemen would be assigned to secure bus terminals, airports and seaports. The transportation and communication department has also coordinated with the police in setting up assistance centers on major roads.

Additional sea marshals have also been deployed to passenger ships and other sea craft to inspect passengers and their baggage for explosives and dangerous or illegal material, according to Lt. Armand Balilo, Philippine Coast Guard spokesperson.

The PCG have set up public assistance centers at major passenger ship terminals and quick reaction and alert rescue teams are on standby for emergency cases.

In Manila, Mayor Lito Atienza said the city has begun coordinating with the Western District Traffic Enforcement Office (WDTEO) for the traffic plan that would take effect on Nov. 1.

The WDTEO annually implements alternative traffic schemes on roads leading to city-owned public cemeteries, including the North Cemetery in the city's Sta. Cruz district and the South Cemetery in Makati, during All Saints' Day.

The city has also started repairing lighting fixtures and installing more lamps along streets and roads leading to the cemeteries.

In Marikina City, home of eastern Metro Manila's largest and busiest cemetery this time of the year—Loyola Memorial Park—all is set for the holiday crush.

"Rerouting, security measures and communication systems are in place," said Marikina police chief Sr. Supt. Felipe Rojas. The police would also be strengthened with an active force drawn from barangay and volunteer organizations, particularly radio communications groups that coordinate their activities with traffic authorities. *Juliet L. Javellana, Leila B. Salaverria, Tarra V. Quismundo, Luige A. del Puerto, Tina G. Santos and Edson C. Tandoc Jr.*

BJMP director denies pocketing food funds

By Nelson F. Flores

THE BUREAU of Jail Management and Penology (BJMP) yesterday denied allegations that its officials had been pocketing the food allowance of inmates.

In a statement, BJMP director Arturo Alit said the P505.5 million budget for inmates' meals this year was only for 39,570 detainees. As of September, he pointed out, the jail population had already reached 57,238.

Alit said that when he assumed office last year, he gave wardens the authority to plan and manage the subsistence allowances of inmates.

He also ordered the formation of teams to monitor the quality of food served and to check cash advances.

Alit said he and other top-ranking jail officials welcomed any inquiry on the reported anomalies and corruption in BJMP jails and the inhumane condition in the country's detention facilities.

On Sunday, Sen. Manny Villar, chair of the Senate committee on public order and illegal drugs, called for an investigation on reports that the BJMP and other jail officials were shaving off and pocketing part of the food allowance of inmates.

Glitch stops MRT

A COMPUTER glitch triggered a malfunction of ticket dispensers in all 13 stations of the Metro Rail Transit and forced a suspension of rail service at 9:45 a.m. Train operations resumed at 10:20 a.m.

Clarissa S. Batino

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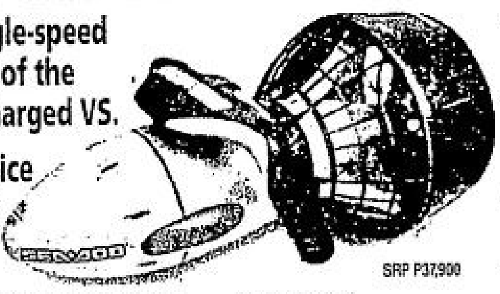

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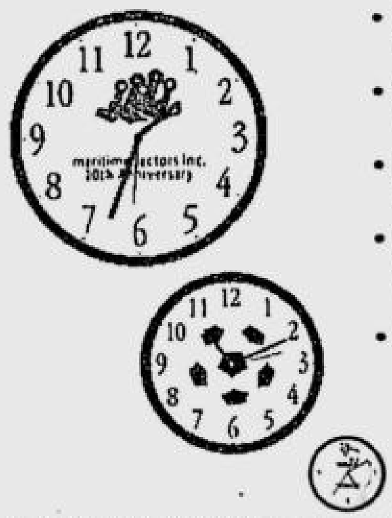
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FOR CLASSY AND LONG LASTING GIVEAWAYS

By Nancy C. Carvajal, Tina G. Santos and Ruth L. Navarra

IMPORTED merchandise worth P15 million went up in flames when fire gutted a warehouse of Rustan's Department Store at the FTI Complex in Taguig.

The three-hour blaze was only one of three fires that hit Metro Manila late Monday and early yesterday.

A Rustan's company official said the fire destroyed shipments of perfumes, lotions and other bottled products.

"It was one of the three warehouses of Rustan's," the official added.

No one was hurt, but municipal fire chief Senior Insp. Virgilio B. de la Paz estimated the damage at P15 million.

De la Paz said fire broke out at 10:45 p.m. at the ceiling of the second floor of the two-level building.

"*May sumiklab* (There was a flash)," the Rustan's official said.

Rustan's had been occupying the warehouse for 24 years.

The entire second floor, which was made of wood, was destroyed and 75 percent of the ground floor was also razed, De la Paz said.

He said burnt samples.from the warehouse would be taken to the Philippine National Police crime laboratory to determine the cause of the blaze.

Arson not ruled out

"We are not ruling out anything yet, including sabotage and arson," he said.

The fire was placed under control at 1:55 a.m.

De la Paz said their station was only 100 meters from the warehouse, but their only fire truck was busy putting out a brush fire which broke out inside the Global City in Fort Bonifacio.

At 3 a.m., a suspected gas tank explosion triggered a blaze that razed more than 50 houses in a densely populated community in front of the Sandiganbayan building in Quezon City.

A five-year-old boy was hurt while at least 100 families were rendered homeless by the three-hour fire.

Raymond Cabillan, of St. Vincent Street, Barangay Holy Spirit, experienced difficulty breathing, arson investigators said.

Investigation showed that the fire started at the house of a certain Gavino Hermosora on St. Vincent Street.

A loud explosion

Prior to the blaze, residents heard a loud explosion, which they suspect was from an exploding gas tank.

Authorities, however, said they were still investigating the cause of the fire that destroyed an estimated P1 million in property.

In Barangay Rosario, Pasig City, a three-year-old child accidentally set fire to some clothes while playing with a lighter at about 8:40 a.m., said Insp. Norberte Salvador.

The fire quickly spread and razed 35 houses.

The fire was put out at 10:10 a.m.

Two firemen, Insp. Rodel Nota and F01 Leonardo Prado, suffered slight injuries. Both were from the Pasig City Fire Department.

Damage was estimated at P5 million.

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FOOTBALL: EPL—Manchester United vs Arsenal; 10 p.m. (r); Star Sports—Catch the replay of this marquee match-up.

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Compiled by L. Manguiat

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Banal fears Pals' streak could end against Kings

By June Navarro

IT'S ONLY a matter of time before other teams catch up with the Talk 'N Text Phone Pals.

And coach Joel Banal fears the streak could end anytime, even tonight against the Barangay Ginebra Kings.

The Phone Pals will again play minus franchise player Asi Taulava when they stake their clean 5-0 record against the Gin Kings in the Grand Matador PBA Philippine Cup at 4:30 p.m. at the Araneta Coliseum.

FedEx and Coca-Cola clash at 7:20 p.m., with the Express looking for a third victory in five games.

Despite missing Taulava, whom the league suspended over his disputed Filipino citizenship, the Phone Pals still handily beat Purefoods and Coca-Cola in their last outings.

On both occasions, the TJ Hotdogs and the Tigers prepared plays against the 6-foot-9 Taulava only to alter their game plan at the 11th hour.

"We probably caught them off-guard because they prepared for Asi. But sooner or later, the other teams will be able to adjust and give us a rough time," said Banal.

When Taulava was around, the Phone Pals relentlessly pounded the middle while Willie Miller, Jimmy Alapag, Vic Pablo and Donbel Belano hit their shots consistently from the outside.

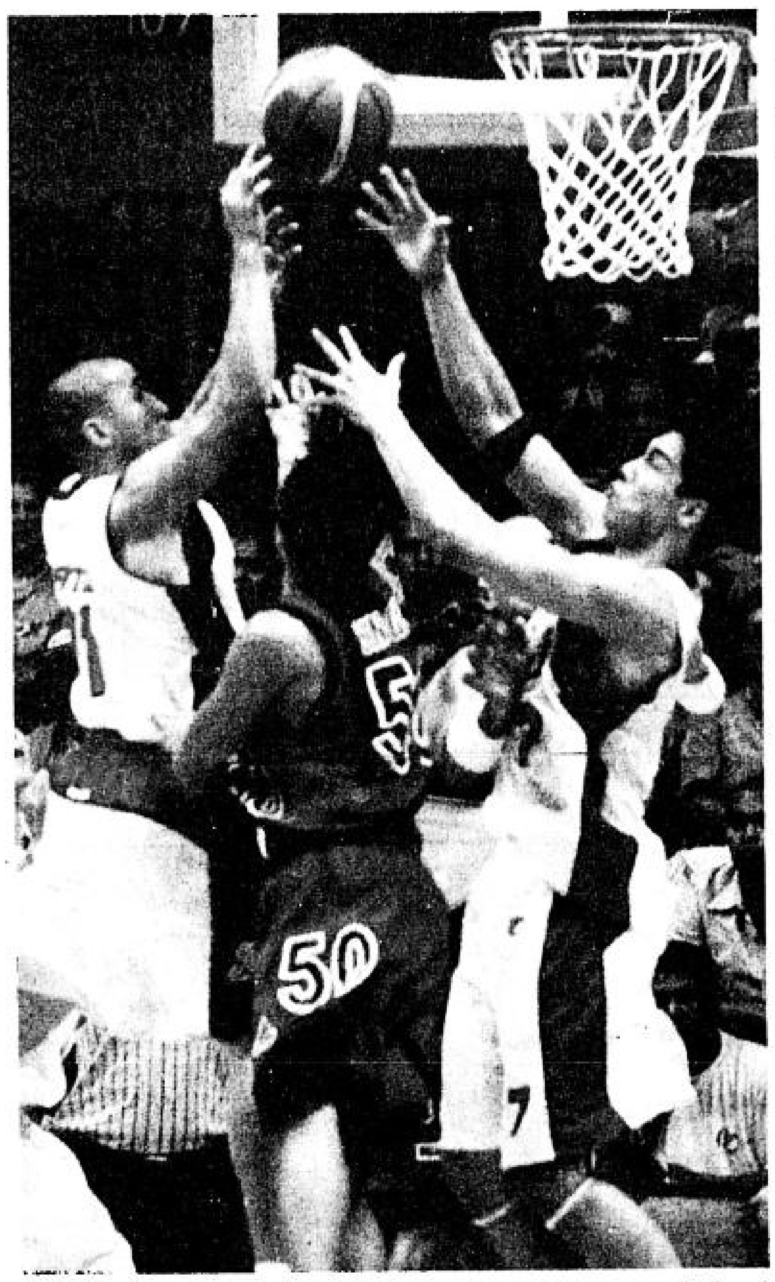
With the Phone Pals now vulnerable in the paint, Romel Adducul, Andy Seigle and Eric Menk are expected to assert themselves inside for the Gin Kings (2-3), who lost their last outing to the Shell Turbochargers.

Meanwhile, the PBA Board of Governors is set to hold an emergency meeting today to tackle the cases of Taulava and the five foreign-born players who were ordered deported by the Department of Justice.

PBA commissioner Noli Eala is expected to submit a plan of action to the board on the deportation-bound players who filed a court case against the league.

Eala said a court injunction would force them to allow Red Bull's Davonn Harp, Mick Pennisi, Jon Ordonio, Rudy Hatfield of Coca-Cola, Ginebra's Alex Crisano and Taulava to play, even though "they are still ineligible based on league rules."

BI deport order out; crime raps readied vs 'Fil-shams'


DALE Singson of San Miguel Beer puts up a shot off Mike Cortez (left) and Sonny Thoss of Alaska puts up a shot off Dale during their game Saturday night at Araneta Coliseum. The Beermen won, 75-67. JESS YUSON

By Jerome Aning

THE BUREAU of Immigration yesterday ordered the deportation of five foreign-born players of the Philippine Basketball Association who faked their Filipino citizenship.

Listed for summary deportation are Rudolf Conse Hatfield II of Coca-Cola, Devon Maurice Harp, Michael Alfio Pennisi and Jonathan William Ordonio of Red Bull and Alex Vincent Crisano of Barangay Ginebra.

Following Immigration regulations, the players will be arrested and sent out of the country within 15 days unless the courts order otherwise, or unless the players appeal their case to the President and she reverses the ruling.

Crisano was granted a temporary restraining order by Manila regional trial court Judge Marcelino Sayo Jr. yesterday while Pennisi and Harp are seeking TROs from the Pasig City Regional Trial Court. Hatfield also sought help from the Manila RTC.

In yesterday's summary hearing, Sayo ordered the Department of Justice and the Bureau of Immigration to postpone deportation proceedings against Crisano for 20 days.

In effect, the DOJ and the BI cannott begin deportation proceedings on Crisano until Nov. 14.

The players' actions irked Justice Secretary Raul Gonzalez, who said yesterday he would initiate criminal proceedings against the five and Paul Asi Taulava, the sixth on the "Fil-sham" list. Taulava's deportation order was held in abeyance due to a court injunction he obtained in September.

Gonzalez said he is also thinking of filing an administrative case against Sayo before the Supreme Court.

"They (players) want war ... you will see what happens," a visibly irked Gonzalez told reporters yesterday afternoon. "We will charge these people with criminal acts as part of the conspiracy (to fake public documents)."

The players were also included in the Immigration blacklist for being undesirable aliens and will be forbidden from returning to the Philippines.

The nine-page ruling of the bureau's Board of Commissioners essentially upheld the DOJ's resolution last Oct. 18 which revoked the players' certificates of recognition as Philippine citizen.

The board also cited the findings of the Senate committee on games and amusement and sports which found that Ordonio, Harp, Hatfield and Crisano are Americans and Pennisi an Australian. Taulava was born and raised in Tonga.

Gonzalez said he would initiate preliminary investigation proceedings against the players, their coaches, team owners, and agents for perjury and falsification of public documents.

As to Sayo, Gonzalez said the TRO was a "clear case of abuse of discretion."

"As far as I'm concerned, the court has no jurisdiction over this," said Gonzalez. *With reports from Philip C. Tubeza and Tara V. Quismundo*

GAMES TODAY
(*Araneta Coliseum*)
4:30 p.m.—Talk 'N Text vs Ginebra
7:20 p.m.—FedEx vs Coca-Cola

Investigate people who OKd foreign cagers—Bernardino

By Musong R. Castillo

FORMER PBA commissioner Jun Bernardino claims some unscrupulous people in the Department of Justice and the Bureau of Immigration have a part in the "Fil-sham" controversy now hounding the league.

Bernardino, in whose watch a deluge of foreign-born players came to play in Asia's first play-for-pay basketball league, broke his silence yesterday to say the foreign-born players and their teams are not the only parties to blame for the scandal.

"I'm surprised at statements I've read (in the papers) that people from these agencies will now look into (league) officials and (team) management," Bernardino told the INQUIRER.

"These players were supposed to have secured their (citizenship) recognition themselves, and they (certain people at the Justice department and the BI)) were the ones who approved the players' papers," Bernardino pointed out.

"The people who approved the documents should also be [investigated]. *Paano ba lumusot yung mga papeles na 'yan* (How did the papers pass scrutiny) in the first place?"

Bernardino, who served as PBA commissioner for nine years, questions the wisdom of deporting the foreign-born players after they managed to secure their citizenship papers directly from government agencies.

"These agencies, we felt at that time, were the rightful agencies to decide on the matter (of citizenship of the foreign-born players)," he said. "It was a rule that the PBA had passed, in accordance with every man's constitutional rights. We had no other recourse but to accept them."

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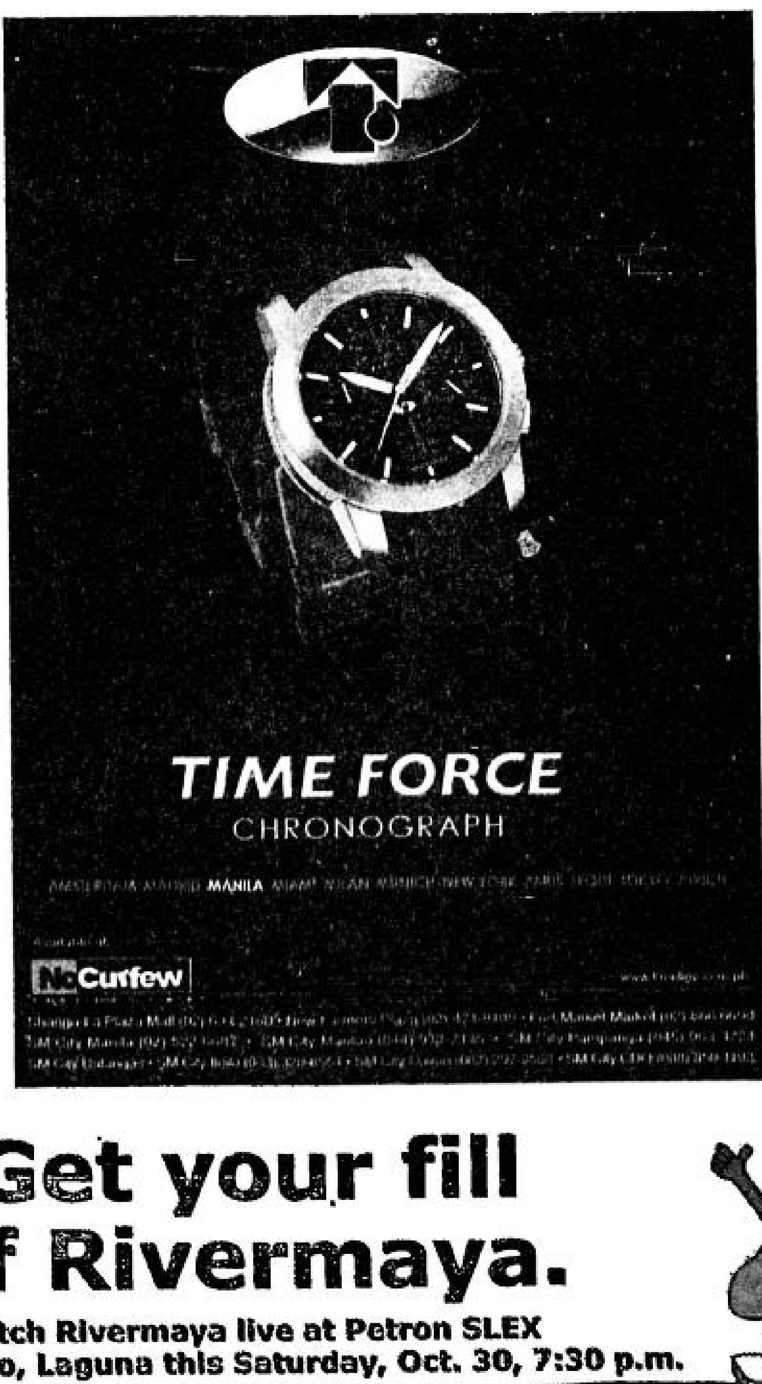
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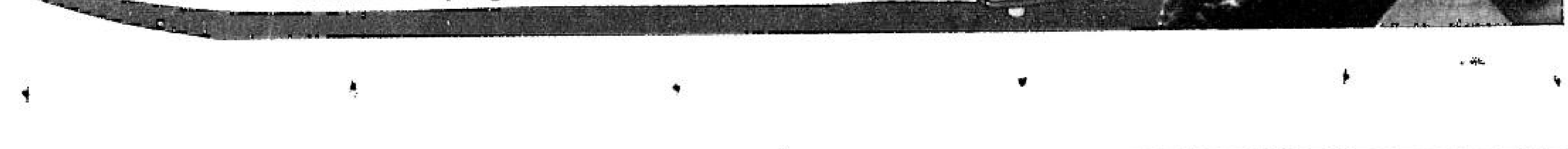
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PBL newcomers in telling debuts

By Jasmine W. Payo

THE LEAGUE newcomers are no easy preys.

Jerome Paterno knocked in the game-winning basket with 22.6 seconds left as Air Philippines soared to an 81-80 upset of Addict Mobile-Ateneo in its maiden voyage yesterday in the PBL Open Championship at the Pasig Sports Center.

Paterno finished with 18 points to lead the Flight, who trailed by 11 early in the fourth quarter.

"I cannot ask for more," said Flight coach Lawrence Chongson. "Unlike other teams that are school-based, ours is a selection. We only had less than two weeks of practice so it was all heart."

Granny Goose Tortillos made it a day of the newcomers by creaming ICTSI-La Salle, 75-66, in a physical second game.

Toti Almeda topscored with 16 points, while Ronald Capati and Ardy Larong added 11 apiece for the Tortillos.

"We only had three days of practice together but the team had intensity. *Yung lang ang panglaban namin ngayon* (That's our only weapon right now)," said Granny Goose coach Jun Tan.

The Cebu-based Granny Goose squad took a 47-39 edge off a 16-7 tear in the third quarter before pulling away, 66-50, in the final period.

ICTSI-La Salle's Mac Cardona was thrown out in the fourth quarter for elbowing Tortillos' Marvin Cruz. Teammate Jerwin Gaco was also slapped an unsportsmanlike foul for hitting Almeda.

PBL commissioner Chino Trinidad is to decide today whether Cardona and Gaco will be suspended in ICTSI-La Salle's game against Addict Mobile-Ateneo on Saturday.

Air Philippines trailed, 72-61, until the trio of Paterno, Fil-Am Mike Holper and Yousif Aljamal combined in a 15-5 run to wrest the lead, 77-76, in the final four minutes.

LA Paterno gave the lead back to Ateneo, 80-79, with 55.3 seconds to go before Paterno came away with his winning layup.

Ateneo still had a chance to steal the ballgame after a Flight turnover, but Jason Castro and JC Intal missed their baskets in the dying seconds.

The scores:

First Game

AIR PHILIPPINES 81—Paterno 18, Holper 14, Aljamal 12, Hubalde 10, Epondulan 7, Vizcarra 7, Alonzo 6, Te 5, Pua 2, Tolentino 0.

ADDICT MOBILE-ATENEO 80—Mesina 16, Castro 13, Tenorio 11, Mendoza 9, Bugia 8, Sanz 8, Alfad 5, Intal 4, Espinas 4, Membrere 2.

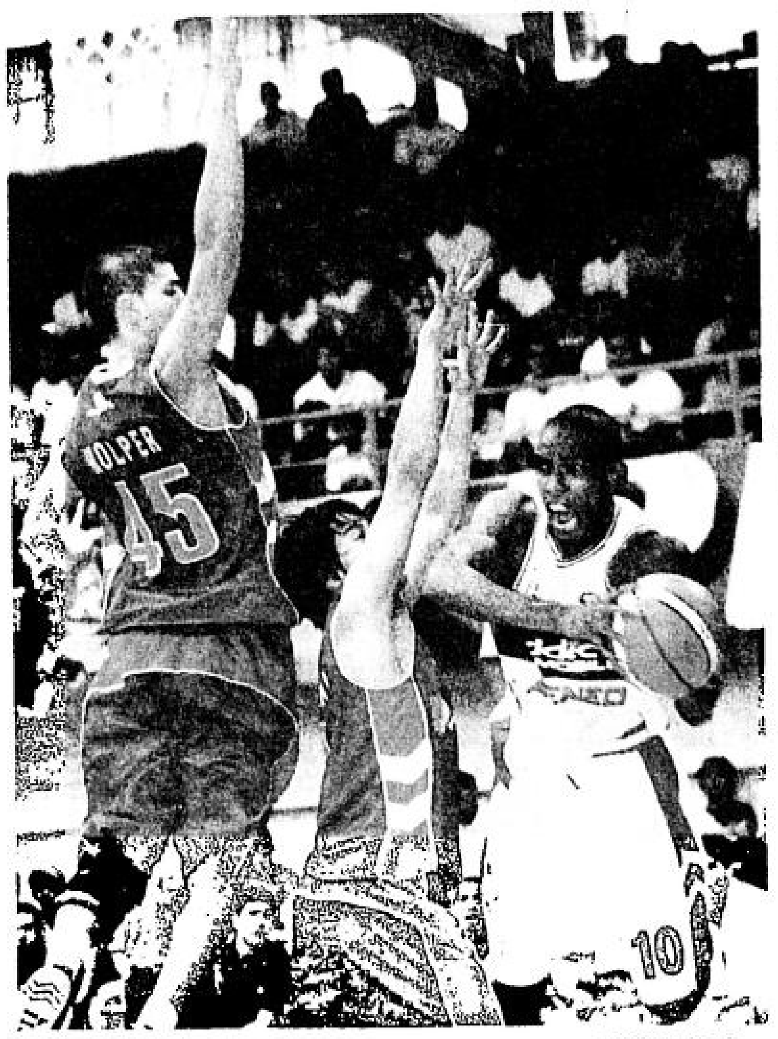
Quarters: 23-21, 41-45, 57-60, 81-80

Second Game

GRANNY GOOSE 75—Almeda 16, Capati 11, Larong 11, Lanete 9, Quiñahan 8, Grijaldo 7, Santos 3, Ibañes 3, Cervantes 3, Latonio 2, Cruz 2.

ICTSI-LA SALLE 66—Yeo 19, Cardona 15, Cabatu 6, Tang 6, Casio 6, Gaco 3, Araña 5, Benitez 4, Gaco 3, Gavino 2, Aquino 0, Gatchalian 0, Walsham 0.

Quarters:19-18, 31-32, 58-47, 75-66



GABBY Espinas (above) of Addict Mobile-Ateneo aborts his drive and looks for the open man off two Air Philippines defenders in last night's game. Espinas, NCAA's MVP and Rookie of the Year, managed only four markers.

AUGUST DELA CRUZ

Boom Boom and treasure finds in Tagbilaran

BARE EYE

Recah Trinidad

TAGBILARAN CITY—The sensational knockout, scored right in the first round, appeared unreal. It could've come out of a movie script.

The hometown boy, now based in Cebu, returned home to fight before his townmates for the first time.

Rey Bautista, a bronze-faced, well-carved farmer's son, reigns as the WBO Pan-Asia bantamweight champion. He had won all his 11 previous professional fights, seven by knockout.

There had been other boxing stars from Bohol like Bobby Berna, but the 18-year-old Bautista, nicknamed Boom Boom for his fire and flare inside the ring, was embraced here like he was already a celebrity as big as Manny Pacquiao.

***

Well, the knockout, scored Sunday evening before a sweltering, full-house crowd, could have come later, maybe in the middle rounds, and it would've been perfectly fine.

But Bautista, in black robes, his head wrapped in a glossy black bandana, kept chanting, jabbing the air to lead the crowd into a frenzy.

He must've worked himself into a happy rage that, once he caught his Indon foe in a corner late in the first round, he bent a bit then dug three successive left blows to the ribs.

Boom, boom, boom! The Indon, who had won seven of his last eight fights, sank and fell as though it was the only time he had entered a boxing ring.

He was counted out on his back, and a stretcher had to be brought in.

There were fears he had suffered a broken bone.

***

No, Bautista's flimsy WBO title, being likened to an Orient-Pacific diadem, was not at stake.

But the crowd savored the win as though Bautista had captured a full-sized world crown.

The impact of victory was total as Bautista rode the ropes and, much mightier now, pumped the air and goaded the triumphant, sweaty crowd into a delirium.

The screaming first-round knockout marked Bautista's 12th successive win against no losses.

And, although all that they had heard before Sunday was his raging, sensational stoppages of previous foes, Boom Boom's townmates were one in swearing that he's the next big thing in RP boxing.

***

Your reporter here could only nod in half-agreement.

Boholanos, blessed with generous mountain, farms and sea, could be feeling like they have a treasure somewhere around here in the gifted Bautista.

In fact, Bautista's chief patron and handler, Tony Aldeguer of the tested and famous ALA Gym in Cebu, should be hailed for again digging deep and surfacing with another world-class find.

Indeed, Bautista, with a big heart, the rare boom-boom behind his punches, could also be a national treasure.

The good thing here is that Aldeguer, who has put Bautista under a boxing scholarship in a team-up with Tagbilaran Mayor Dan Lim Neri, has acknowledged that the young boxer must breathe deeper down to his navel area, seat of the so-called *chi*, in launching his killer blows.

***

Bautista, using the shoulder pad as springboard of his punches, has greatly diminished his total worth.

He did try the new technique, adopted by the likes of Muhammad Ali, and the teenage wonder, now breathing more freely, was amazed at how he was also able to move a lot better with his feet.

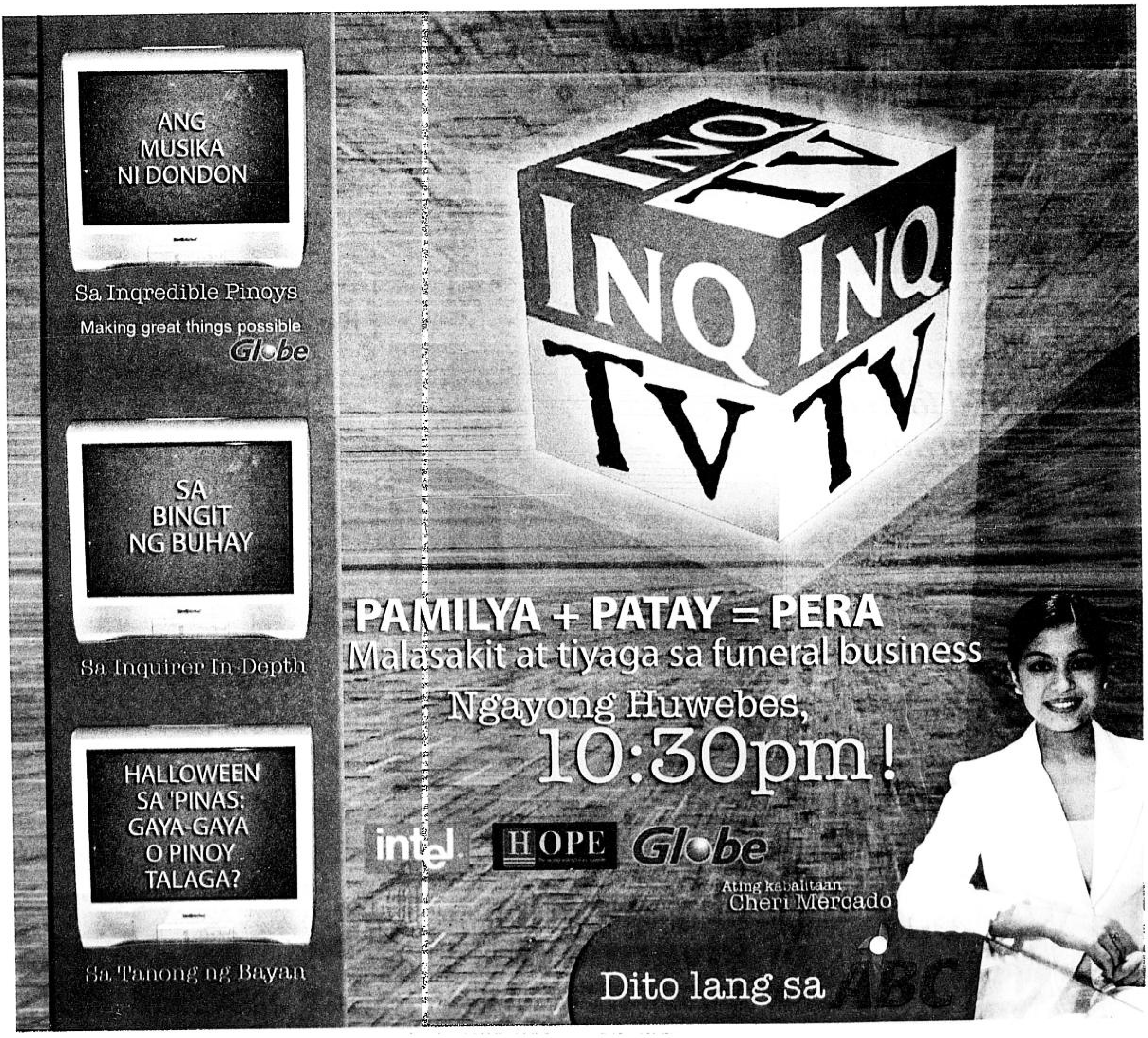
Knowing Tony Aldeguer, who's gifted with a sharp technical eye, Bautista should find no trouble shifting to the tried-and-tested style.

Anyway, Randy Suico's successful third defense of his OPBF super featherweight title in Cebu City on Saturday has indeed lent a piece of joy to his poor townmates.

In Bautista's case however, he fought so mightily that, although he could still be a couple of years to a world crown, he had visibly succeeded in making those around him feel truly triumphant.

Of course, nobody could feel more rewarded than first-time visitors to Tagbilaran.

A short, quiet boat ride from the shriek of cruel commerce in Cebu, the sweet serenity of this orderly city of sea, sunshine and sincere smiles is indeed a treasure of a find.



Jao, Carapiet clinch titles at BRC

ROSARIO, Batangas—Jolet Jao of Shell Advance-Kawasaki and Ivan Carapiet of Edgesport captured the overall crown in their respective classes Sunday in the 2004 PCSO Grand Prix at the Batangas Racing Circuit here.

Jao, though finishing only second in the last two races, clinched the Shell Advance Superbikes Series for an unprecedented eighth time.

Carapiet swept the two races to claim the Formula Toyota Cup, his second major plum after ruling the KT Light class in last year's Shell Superkarting Series.

The day actually belonged to Benjo Mendoza of Speedeffex, who upset Jao twice in three thrilling Superbike races.

Jao accumulated 255 points to emerge overall champion in the series. Mendoza wound up second with 218 points, followed by Toti Alberto with 162.

Toting a precarious 16-point lead at the start of the races, Carapiet won twice over Michelle Bumgarner.

Carapiet totaled 174 points, with Bumgarner settling for 141. Gabby de la Merced finished third overall with 131.

Clinching the other titles were Aries Padiernos (Novice category) and Jade Lazaro (Sub 400cc).

Pastor breaks Batangas lap mark

ROSARIO, Batangas—Team T.E.C. Speedwelle driver Enzo Pastor of Petron Bench Boysen McGills broke the lap record for Group N1 touring cars at the Batangas Racing Circuit Sunday, clocking 1 minute 48.6 seconds in a Honda EK N1 he borrowed from team manager Ferdie Ong.

Pastor eclipsed the previous record of 1:48.90, set by Kookie Ramirez, while engaging Jody Coseteng in a tight battle in Race 9 of the Philippine National Touring Car Series.

The performance gave Pastor great satisfaction following what he claimed were erroneous published reports blaming him for Coseteng's recent string of losses.

Pastor said the absence of any protest or incident report from Coseteng's team is proof that the allegations were baseless.

RP suffers 3rd straight defeat

Paragua, Senador yield to Estonians

The leaders after 10 rounds:

Open (129 teams): 29.0—Ukraine; 27.0—Russia; 26.5—Armenia; 26.0—United States; 25.0—Azerbaijan, Cuba; 24.5—Switzerland; 24.0—India, Bulgaria, Slovakia, France, China, Czech Republic, Moldova, Poland, Serbia Montenegro, Canada; 23.5—Georgia, Spain A, Estonia, Hungary, Belarus; 23.0—Uzbekistan, Slovenia, Bosnia Herzegovina, Latvia, Sweden; 22.5—Germany, Greece, Australia, Lithuania, Denmark, Norway, Vietnam; 22.0—Netherlands, Argentina, Belgium, Iceland; 21.5—Philippines, England, Kazakhstan, Spain B, Romania, Indonesia, IPCA

GM Joey Antonio finally returns to action today.

MALLORCA, Spain—International Master Jayson Gonzales and rookie Darwin Laylo salvaged hard-earned draws, but the Philippines still absorbed a stinging 3-1 defeat to Estonia Monday in the 10th round of the World Chess Olympiad.

International Master Mark Paragua stumbled at the top board, while National Master Emmanuel Senador misplayed a drawish endgame at Board 3 as the Filipinos plunged into a share of 40th place with England, Kazakhstan, Spain B, Romania, Indonesia and IPCA.

The Filipinos, who lost to Azerbaijan, 1-3, Sunday and to Poland by the same score Saturday now have 21.5 and need a big score against IPCA Tuesday to resuscitate their faltering campaign.

Surprisingly, the mood is still upbeat in the Philippine camp.

"We're going to strike hard today," vowed RP team captain Sammy Estimo, hours before the start of the 11th round.

Grandmaster Joey Antonio, who took an extended four-day rest, returns to action to play the first board.

The absence of GM Eugene Torre and Antonio took its toll on the brave Filipino side.

First to fall was Paragua, who bowed to veteran GM Jaan Ehlvest (2631) in 45 moves of a Slav defense.

Playing black, the 20-year-old GM-candidate was forced to give up a piece for two pawns early on. He managed to hold the Estonian at bay until finally capitulating following precise play by white.

It was Paragua's second loss in the tournament.

Gonzales, the regular Board 4 player, missed a winning middlegame in his English encounter with IM Aleksandr Veingold and battled hard in the endgame to save a draw despite a pawn down after 82 moves.

The Filipino yielded a pawn to give his two bishops room to maneuver, but overlooked a rook move that would have won him a piece.

As a result, Veingold managed to reduce the game into an endgame pitting his knight and four pawns against Gonzales' bishop and three pawns.

Laylo, the reigning national champion, won the exchange in a slambang King's Indian battle with IM Tarvo Seeman, but was unable to press home the win and settled for an 80-move draw.

Senador's loss to IM Olav Sepp broke the hearts of the Filipinos. He inexplicably gave up his lone outside passed pawn under time pressure, allowing Sepp to run away with the victory.

Meanwhile, Ukraine drew with the United States to jack up its total to 29 points, two ahead of Russia, which edged France, 2.5-1.5.

Armenia routed Slovenia, 3.5-0.5, to gain solo third place, half-a-point ahead of the US.

In women's play, the Filipinas dropped a 2-1 loss to Bosnia Herzegovina.

WIM Beverly Mendoza and Loreshyl Cuizon drew with Sanja Dedijer and Nada Skrkar Nada, respectively.

WFM Sheerie Joy Lomibao, however, lost to WIM Elena Titova-Bovic at Board 1.

The Filipinas slipped to a tie for 57th spot with Brazil with 14 points, 10.5 points behind pacesetting China.

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Final Round (4-Stag), Araneta Coliseum

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Championship Round (4-Stag), Roligon Mega Cockpit

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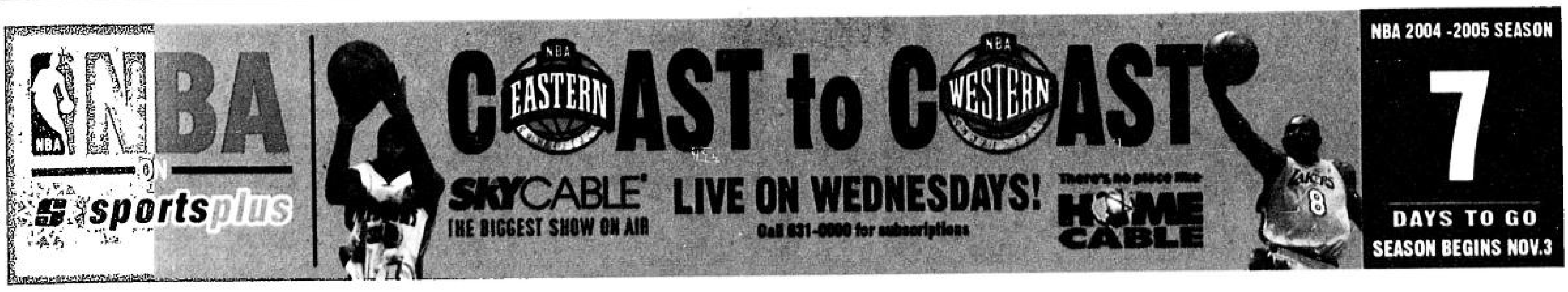
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WORLD SERIES

Curse and eclipse hover over Boston

ST. LOUIS, Missouri—A total eclipse of the full moon during Game 4 of the World Series here Wednesday could be a dark omen for Boston's seemingly cursed Red Sox or mean 'lights out' for the St. Louis Cardinals.

Seeking their first title since 1918, the Red Sox, who will start Pedro Martinez in Game 3, own a 2-0 lead in Major League Baseball's best-of-seven final entering game three here Tuesday. They could complete a sweep Wednesday to end the legendary 86-year drought.

The Red Sox have not won a title since selling star Babe Ruth to the rival New York Yankees in 1919, while the Yankees have won a record 26 crowns since. Some explain the drought as a "Curse of the Bambino" for snubbing Ruth.

This will be the first Series game played while a lunar eclipse is visible, although a similar heavenly event came on the eve of the 1986 Series—one that produced an epic moment of heartbreak for the Red Sox and their devoted fans.

One out from winning the Series, the Red Sox squandered a two-run lead and lost game six to the New York Mets when an easy ground ball rolled between first baseman Bill Buckner's legs. The Mets won the game and the Series.

Could the eclipse be the curse returning to frustrate Boston again? Or might the full moon vanishing be Ruth's final wink before his ghost bids farewell, halting the haunting just four days before Halloween?

MARTINEZ: Game 3 starter AP

Odd things have already happened this year in baseball, the most spectacular of them coming when Boston made the greatest playoff comeback in history by rallying from a 0-3 hole to oust the Yankees in the American League final.

The Red Sox made four errors in each of the first two Series games and still won both—despite stranding 21 base runners.

The Cardinals saw star batters Albert Pujols, Jim Edmonds and Scott Rolen go hitless in nine trips to the plate with runners in scoring positions. St. Louis had a fielder hit by a ball on a bad hop and a runner miss tagging second base.

Could the baseball gods be saying "Bye Bye Birdies"?

"It's baseball. Just baseball," St. Louis manager Tony La Russa said. "It wasn't anything from the gods."

Yet stars and stargazers alike will cast eyes to the heavens Wednesday at Busch Stadium despite forecasts of scattered rain showers.

The eclipse will begin just before the game starts, the moon's color taking on a reddish hue—the ruby orb a perfect lunatic lighting for a crimson showdown between the Red Sox and a club named for red birds.

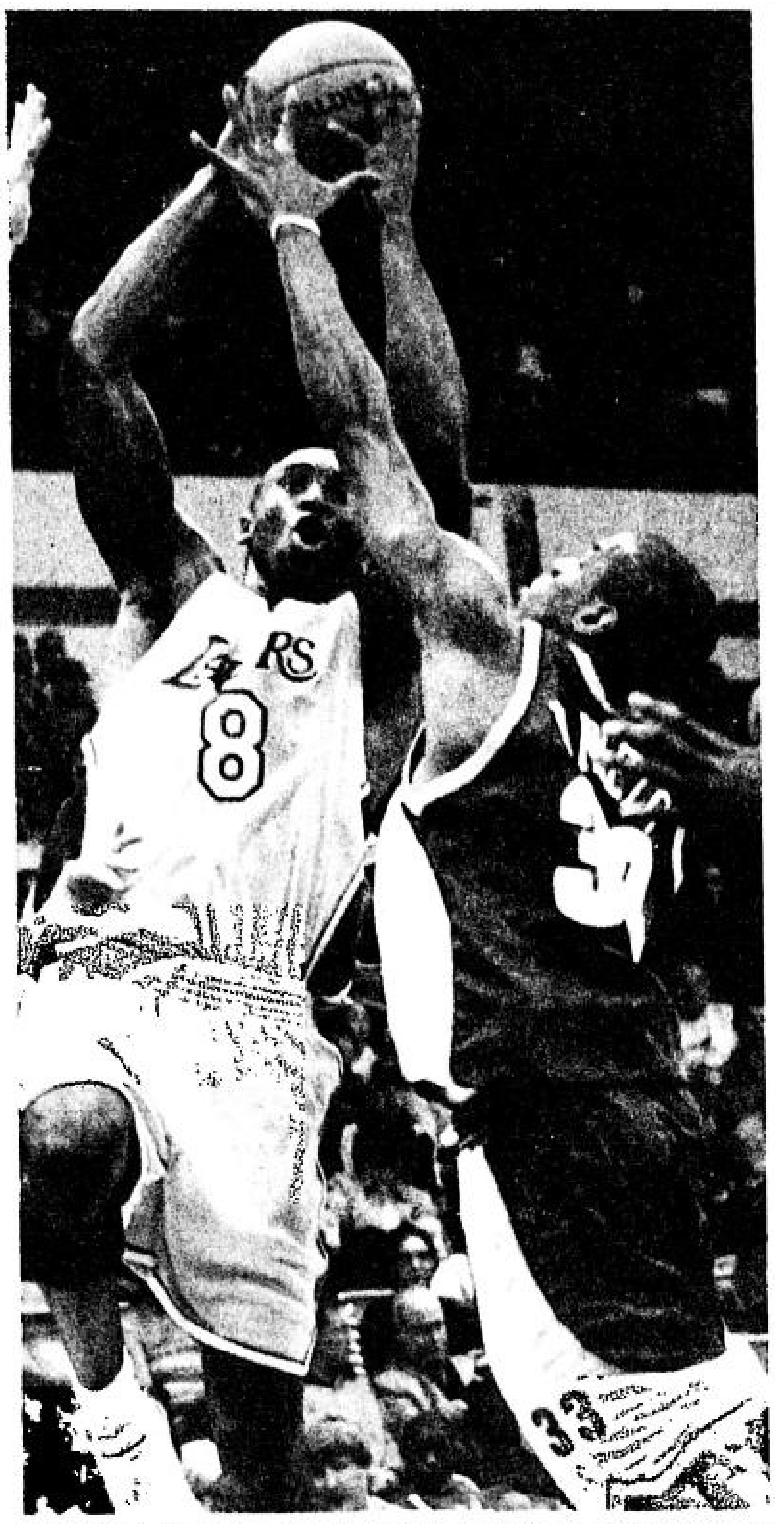
As the game enters the crucial final innings, the moon is expected to be in full eclipse.

La Russa does not plan on his club's title chances disappearing in the night.

"We're a championship club," La Russa said. "One of the things we've done all along is if we get down we find a way to get back in it."

The Cardinals have won all six home playoff games this year but the Red Sox, who have won six playoff games in a row, do not want their advantage in the Series to become gone with the moon.

"We know what we have to do. We're not going to sit on this," said Red Sox closing relief pitcher Keith Foulke. *AFP*


HANG TIME: Los Angeles Lakers' Kobe Bryant floats his way through the defense of Seattle SuperSonics' Antonio Daniels in a preseason match. The Lakers won, 117-91. AP

Dutch striker says he's innocent

LONDON—Ruud van Nistelrooy says he is innocent of charges he tried deliberately to hurt Arsenal fullback Ashley Cole during Manchester United's controversial 2-0 win at Old Trafford on Sunday.

The Netherlands international has been charged with serious foul play by the Football Association for kicking the England defender on the knee and could face a three-match ban.

However, van Nistelrooy told The Sun: "We both just went for the ball. It was a 50-50 ball and in these situations two players can collide."

Van Nistelrooy's challenge, missed by referee Mike Riley, was branded "a disgrace" by BBC TV pundit and former Liverpool defender Alan Hansen.

They also brought a "cheat" jibe from manager Arsene Wenger which is thought to have played some part in a tunnel fracas that erupted after the game that ended Arsenal's 49-game unbeaten run.

"Van Nistelrooy can only cheat people—we know him very well," said Wenger. *AFP*

Tiny Saragoza walks tall with 66

By Musong R. Castillo

CANLUBANG—Tiny Boyet Saragoza fired a brilliant six-under-par 66 yesterday using a new driver to zoom to the first-round lead in the Canlubang Amateur championships at the North Course.

With his downswing improved by Tony Arevalo and the driver given him by the caddy-turned-businessman finding all the fairways, Saragoza shot seven birdies against a bogey to take a 3-shot lead over Raymund Sangil.

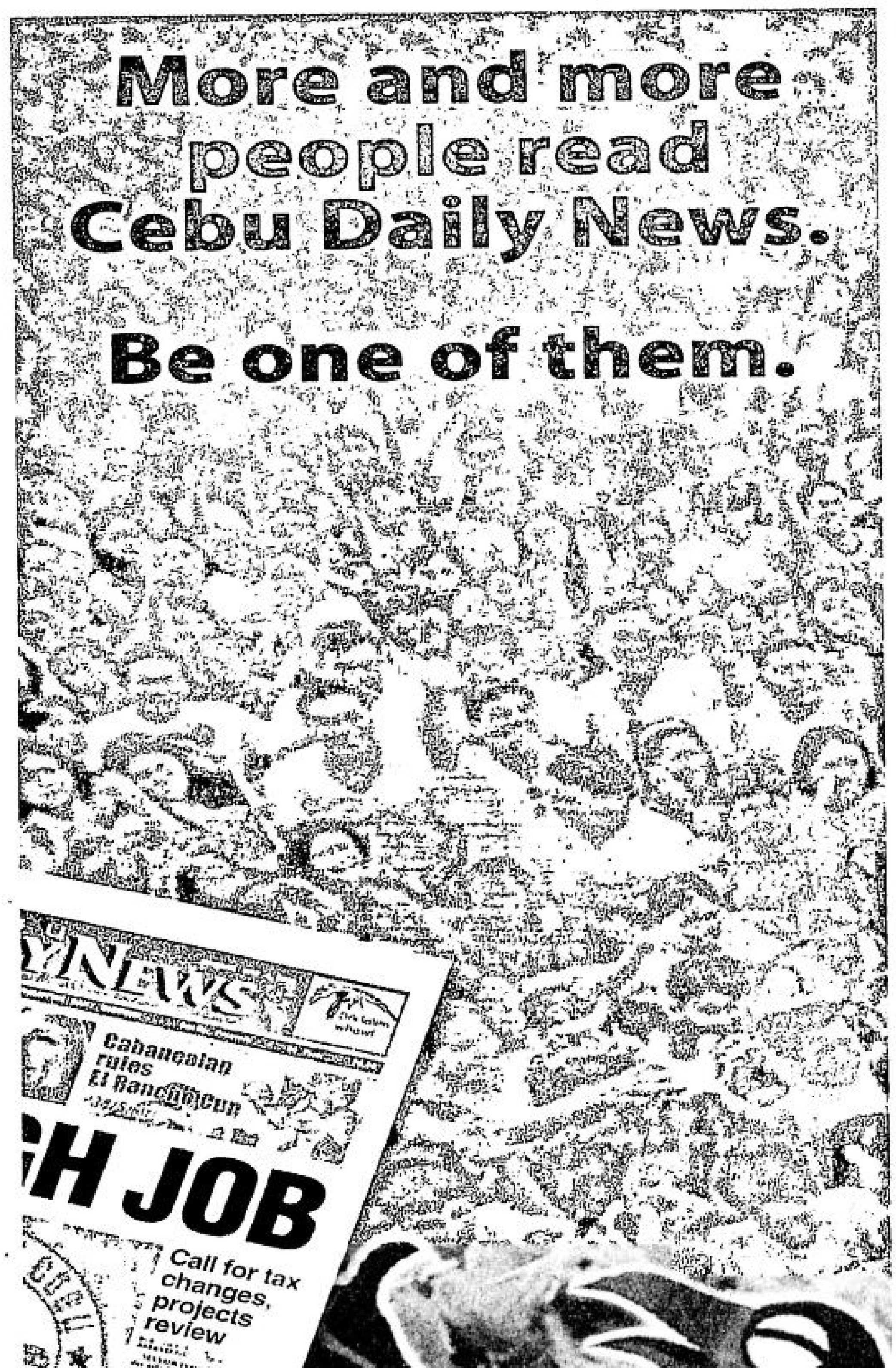
The 31-year-old veteran of the Putra Cup and Singapore Amateur campaigns had a 32-34 card, the only blemish coming at the par-3 15th where he failed to rescue par from the greenside trap.

Sangil shot a 69 after going three-under coming in.

Riviera standout Marvin Dumandan fired a 71 for third spot, one shot ahead of Ronnie Torrecampo.

Korean Kim Chang Hoi occupied fifth after a 73, with Rufino Bayron, Jay's younger brother, sixth after a 74.

Meanwhile, Jay Bayron, Erwin Vinluan and RP Amateur champion Jun Bernis tee off tomorrow in the Hong Kong Amateur championships. In Puerto Rico, Juvic Pagunsan, Michael Bibat and Artemio Murakami open the country's bid in the World Amateurs, also tomorrow.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Cebu five forces winner-take-all

CEBU CITY—The Skygo-backed Tribu Sugbu (Cebu Tribes) bounced back with a masterful 82-68 victory over Forward Taguig Monday night to forge a winner-take-all match for the NBC (National Basketball Conference) national title today at the Cebu Coliseum here.

Waxing hot from the second period, the Tribes took control at the turn, 42-34, and never looked back as they shot 51 percent from the field (36-for-76) while limiting the Taguig cagers to 40 percent on 25-for-63 shooting.

"We adjusted well, especially on defense," said Tribes coach Al Solis. "The boys simply refused to go down."

The two teams clash anew at 6 p.m. today with the winner emerging as the first NBC national champion.

The victory extended to 10-0 the homecourt record of the Tribes of businessman Lito Gillamac, Albert Tan and Dr. Kelly Viado.

Mayor Freddie Tinga's Taguig five groped for the form which enabled it to win Game 1, 73-68, last Friday. Coach Danny Gavieres' boys fell behind by 24 in the final quarter.

Meanwhile, Ozamiz's pointguard, Egay Echavez, was named NBC most valuable player and made it to the Mythical Five together with Cebu's Chico Lanete and Alfie Grijaldo, Iloilo's Francis Sanz and Taguig's Jimboy Robillos.

Batangas' Harold Sta. Cruz bagged the Defensive Player of the Year award.

Cagayan de Oro's Julius Navales got the Find of the Year plum while the Ryan Ancheta Sportsmanship Award went to Batangas' Nelson Gonzales.

The scores:

CEBU 82—Grijaldo 15, Dela Rosa 12, Mercado 12, Piodo 10, Lanete 7, Larong 6, Tangkay 5, Bucao 5, Sanders 4, Almacin 2, Concha 2, Galinato 2, Licanda 0, Elim 0.

TAGUIG 68—Robillos 12, Ricafuente 11, De Guia 11, Villar 9, Alberto 7, Gumatay 6, Magsambol 6, Reyes 4, Nuqui 2, Roldan 0, Magsalin 0, Quimpo 0.

Quarters: 19-16, 42-34, 57-40, 82-68.

Sangali tops Red Ribbon leg

JUMAARIN Mukaram, the Most Valuable Player in the recent Zamboanga leg of the Red Ribbon Football Fiesta, hit the back of the net in the 11th minute to lead the Sangali Football Club to a 1-0 victory over the Talisara Football Club in the final of the city's premiere U-14 tournament recently.

Mukaram, a fisherman's son from the fishing port of Sangali, 38 kilometers east of Zamboanga City, broke through Talisara defenders and scored what turned out to be the winning goal against Talisara FC (Talisayan/San Ramon Grade School).

Western Mindanao State University took 3rd place by virtue of its 2-1 victory over Claret A. The finals were graced by Councilor Elong Natividad, president of the Zamboanga City Sports Foundation, and Zamboanga Football Association president Teng Torres.

SPORTSWATCH

4-stag final tonight

LUZON'S toughest rooster-raisers fight it out with 60 all-important matches starting at 6 p.m. today at the Roligon Mega Cockpit. Tonight's 4-stag championship is the deciding round of the LGBA Breeder of the Year battle. Sharing the lead with 13 points apiece are EDCR Top Gun of Edwin Ramos (Laguna) who moved up from 4th position and erstwhile 2nd placer Art J Tuba of Councilor Tony Boy Tabora (Baguio City).

RACING TIPS

AT SANTA ANA BY MR. 999

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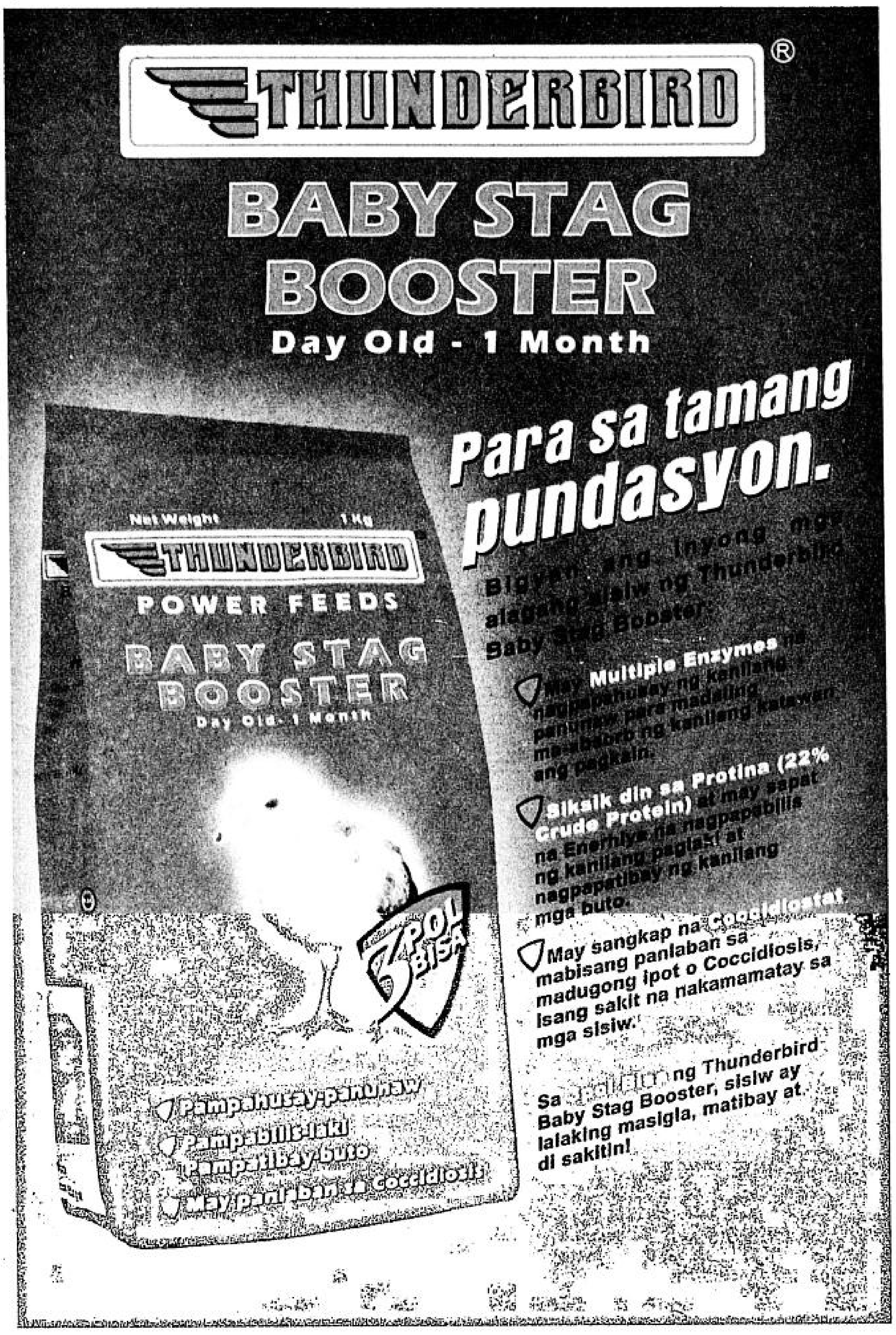
Race 2—1. Money Maker 2. Solo Singer 3. Danielle's Angel 4. Lady Be Gold
Race 3—1. Ocean Cookie 2. Naglalabyog 3. Schwarzenegger 4. Ichiro 5. Mano Po
Race 4—1. Little Girl 2. Silver Cho Cho 3. Shining Lance 4. Playing With Fire
Race 5—1. Scud Missile 2. Stradivarius 3. Perfect Time 4. Queen Malawe 5. Mr. Lucas
Race 6—1. Rule and Reign 2. Holy King 3. Native Prince/Flaming Heart 4. Silver Dollar
Race 7—1. American Beauty 2. Island King 3. Epic Energy 4. Kiss Me Quick 5. Chase the Wind
Race 8—1. Great Tower 2. Boogie Shoes 3. Sham Sham 4. Hurry Putter 5. Zaralun Mo 6. Gentleman's Lady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Amina Aranaz fabulously wraps it up in BLING IT ON!
We've got your Christmas list sorted out!
All you've got to do is... JUST SHOP!
JUST SHOP magazine is given free to Inquirer subscribers in Metro Manila. If you want to [illegible]

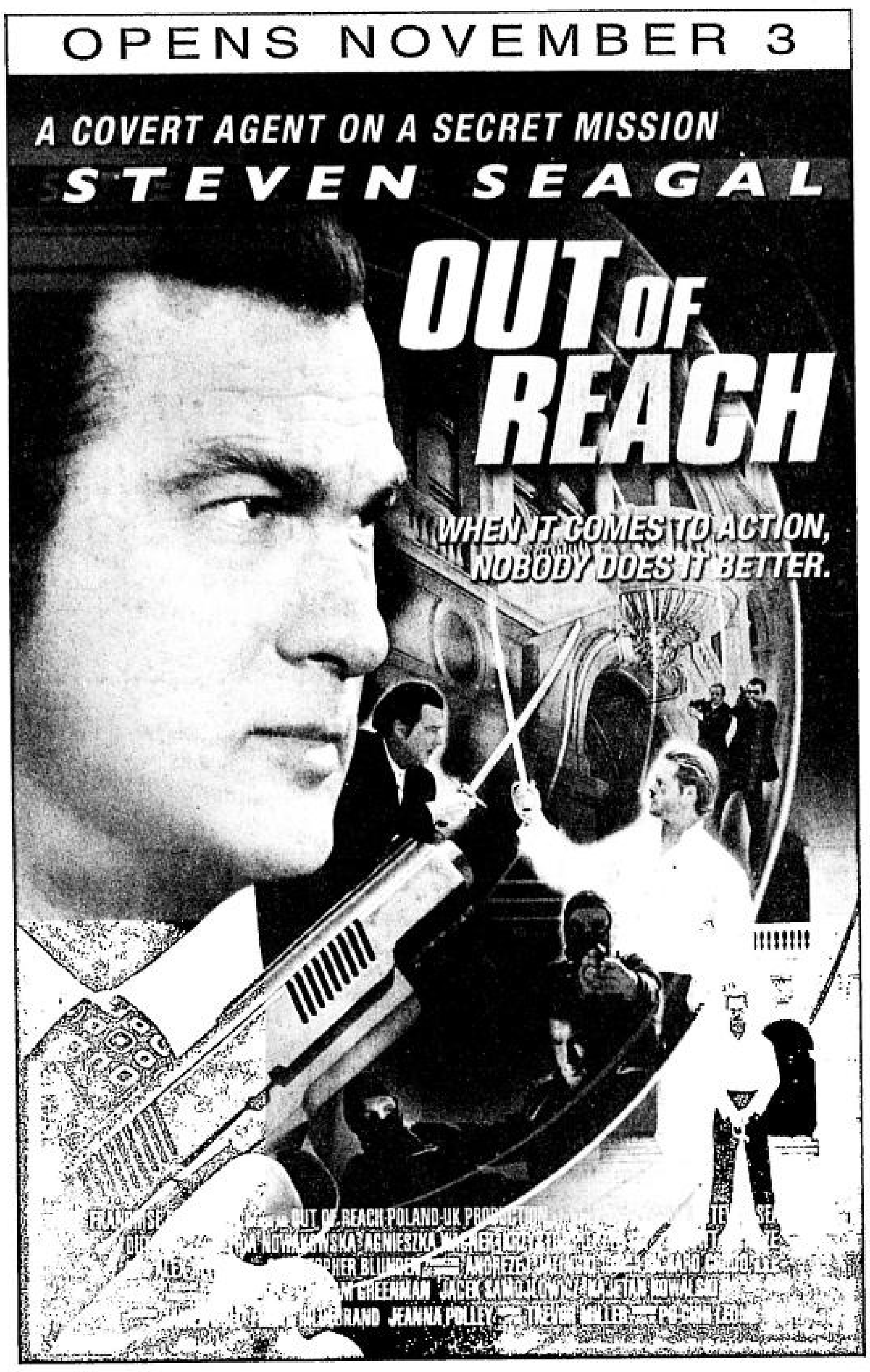
Farina gets lucky

NEW YORK—Actor Dennis Farina's luck is beginning to turn around. The former Chicago police officer hadn't appeared in any major projects for some time, and then was forced to withdraw from "Collateral," the thriller starring Tom Cruise, after a car accident.

Then, Farina was recruited to join the cast of "Law .& Order," after longtime fixture Jerry Orbach announced he was leaving to join a spinoff.

Farina says he was already a fan of the show and liked the emphasis on the crime stories rather than the. characters' personal lives. He also was not worried about competition from other crime shows like "CSI."

"I just think 'Law & Order' is the gold standard," he told The Times. "History is going to show that it's probably one of the best series of shows that has been on television." *AP*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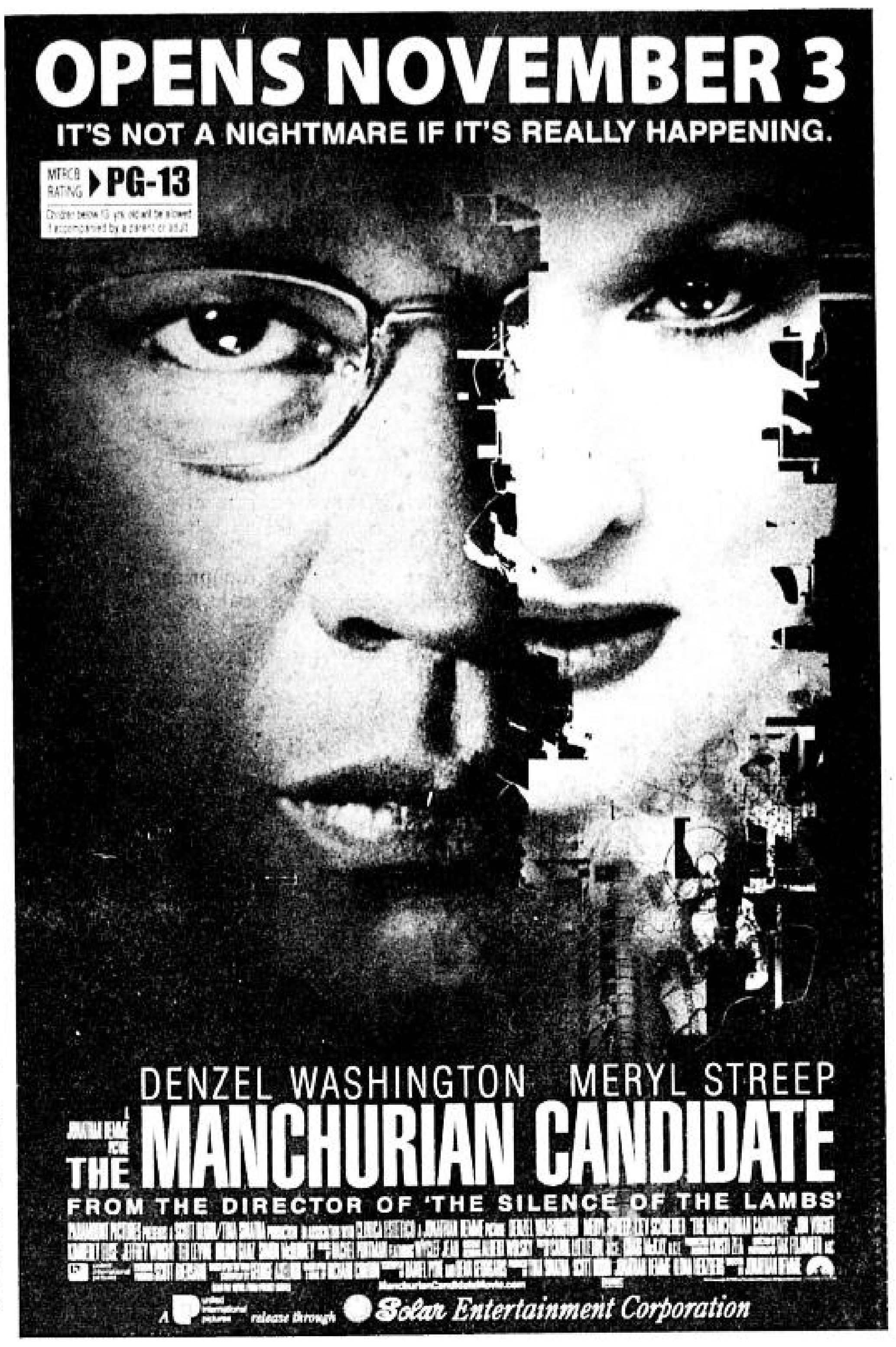
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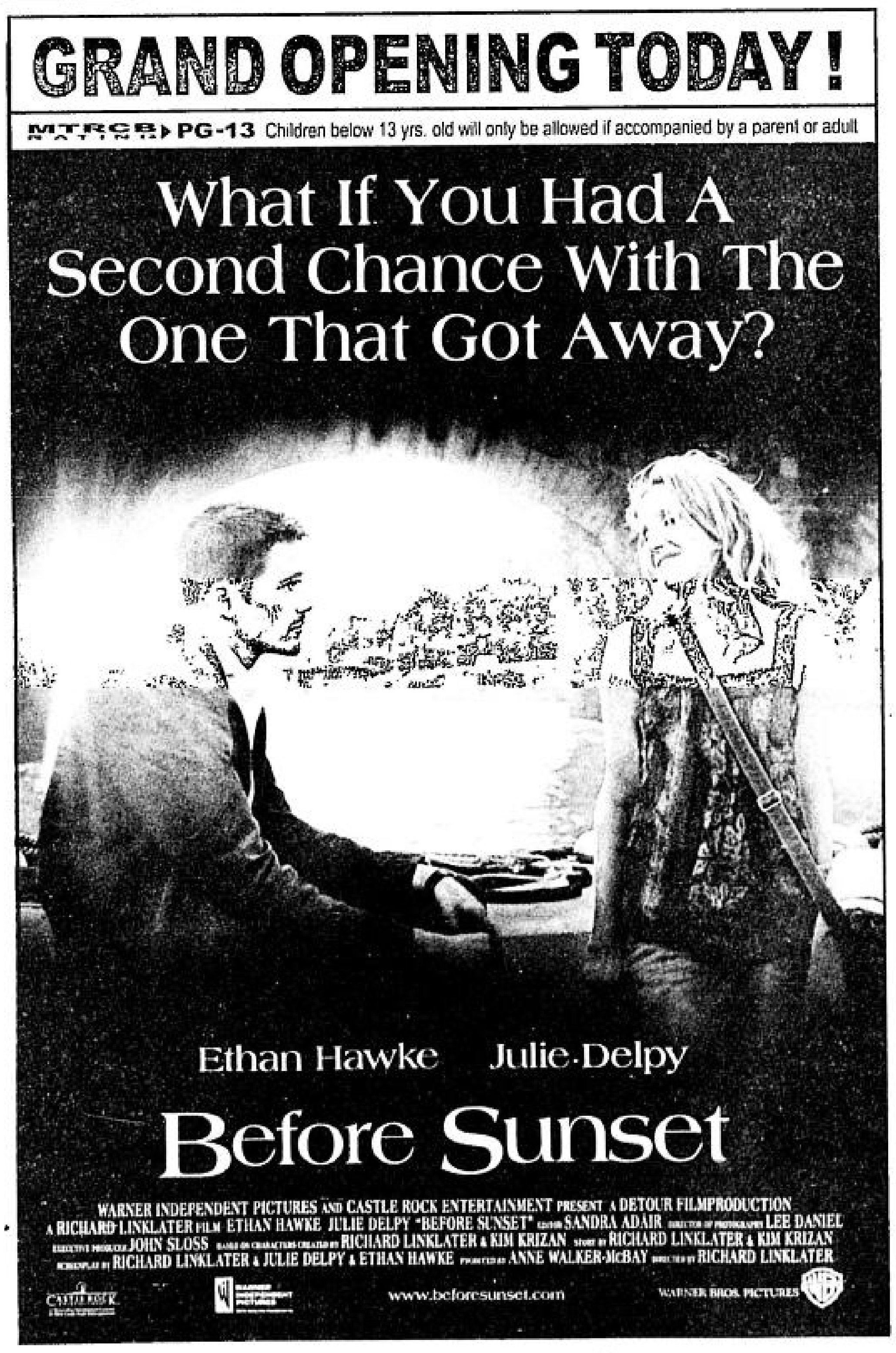
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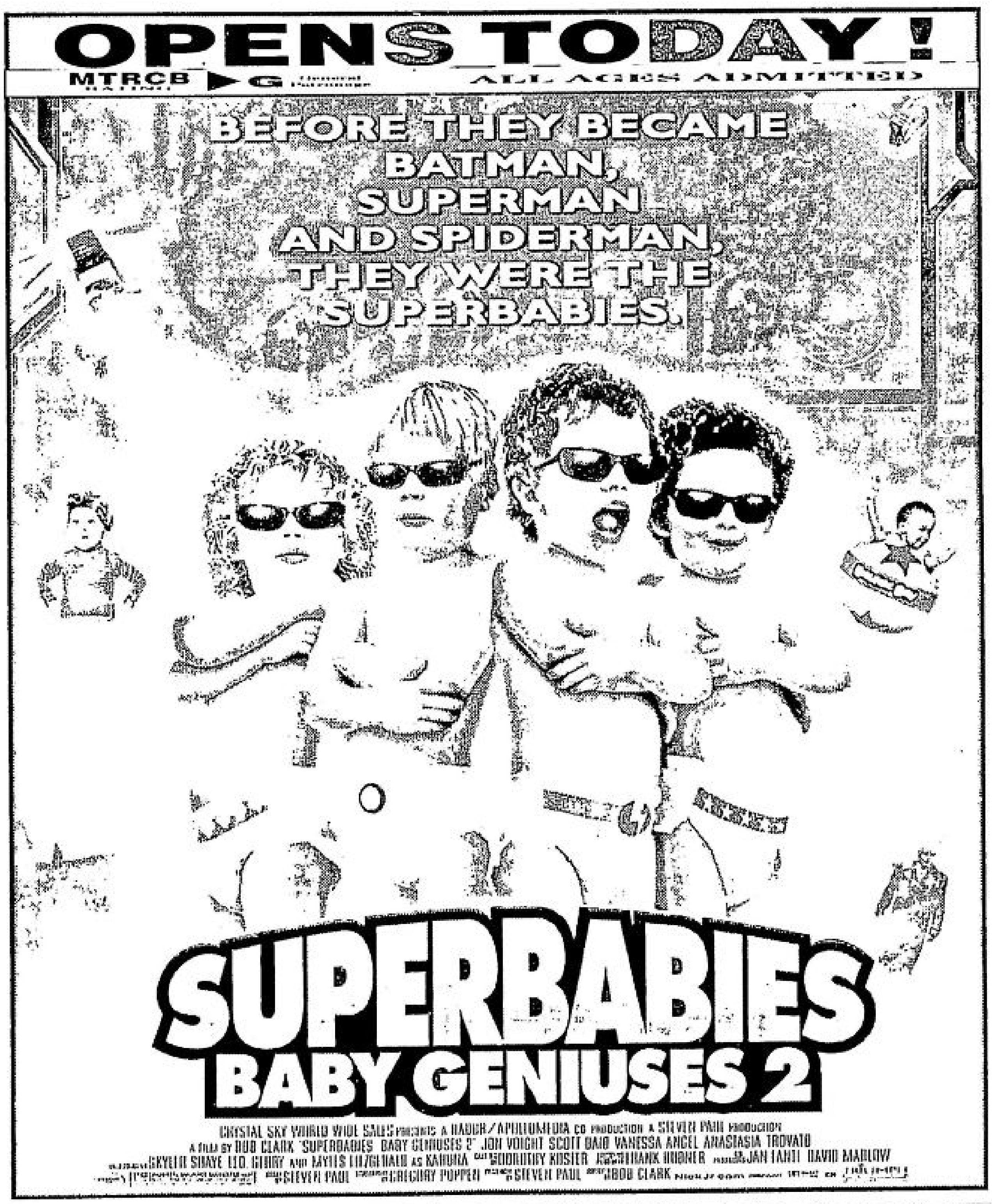
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VIEWFINDER

Nestor U. Torre

HOST: Wasn't it difficult for you, joining this bikini competition? After all, it's not easy parading around in a small bikini!

Guest: No, not really. I used to be a swimmer in school, so I'm used to walk around in almost naked.

(*Ay*, in almost naked?)

* * *

Host: Aren't you sorry that you caused 'so' much scandal with your sexy pictorial?

Guest: Well, *kahit masama ang ginawa ko, sana makatulong ako sa problema ng bansa.*

(And how can your sexy pictorial accomplish that?!)

* * *

Host: What will happen to the politicians who have been pinpointed as customers of "sexcort" service?

Guest: We will investigate them, depending on the documents.

(What documents? You mean, they signed something?)

* * *

Host: You have been criticized for the sexy things you say on TV, which some people say are indecent. Your comment?

Guest: There's such a words *na* freedom of expressions, right?

(Wrong!)

* * *

Host: After the fire that gutted your shopping center, what will happen now?

Guest: We assure our customers, on the burned site, a new building will be arrested!

(*Ay*, arrested [architectural] development?)

* * *

Host: What was the effect on the audience of your unique musical number?

Guest: Modesty aside, it got the amazement and applaud of different people!

(*Ay*, amazement and applaud!)

* * *

Host: I heard you have an unusual pet. What is it?

Guest: It's a civet.

Host: What's a civet?

Guest: It's like a mongoose.

Host: What's a mongoose?

(Dear TV host, don't you know anything?)

* * *

Host: What is the problem regarding sanitation in your place?

Guest: *Ang prublema sa tubig namin dito—may amuyba.*

(*May amoy ba?*—oh, amoeba!)

* * *

Host: Are you nervous, now that your movie is about to open?

Guest: Oh, yes, I'm so *tengs*!

(*Ay, tengs talaga siya!*)

* * *

Host: What should be done about the financial scandals in the military today?

Guest: Based on the principle of transparency, they should be brought out in the public outrightingly!

(Outrightingly? *Bago 'yon, a.*)

* * *

Host: What is the biggest problem facing us on the economic front, *sa palagay niyo*?

Guest: *Sa aking palagay ang* biggest financial problem *natin ngayon ay ang hamon ng gulobilisasyon!*

(*Gulo na, bilis pa—problema talaga!*)

* * *

Host: How should we solve our huge problem of poverty?

Guest: *May kasabihan: Imbes na bigyan mo ang isda, turuan mong mangisda!*

(*Turuang mangisda ang isda? Ang gulo talaga!*)

Scriptwriting workshop

ABS-CBN is holding a TV drama scriptwriting workshop to be conducted by **Ricky Lee**. Submit a one-page storyline in any genre, and a comprehensive resumé before Nov. 8. E-mail Writers-Devt@abs.pinoycentral.com. Only 30 applicants will be chosen.

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Cinema 2

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SM City Marilao
Cinema 1
SM City Cagayan
Cinema 1

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MTRCB Rating:R13
SM City Bacoor
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Cinema 3
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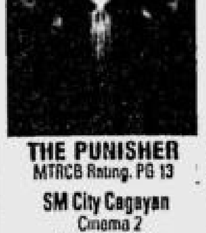

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BERNIE FINEZA'S SON

'I love my stepdad very, very much'

By Nini Valera

"STARSTRUCK" finalist Kirby de Jesus would like his real father, former Hagibis member Bernie Fineza, to know that he already considers another man his father and that he loves this man "very, very much."

"I already have someone that I consider my father," said Kirby, 15, in an exlusive interview with INQUIRER Entertainment last Monday. "There is nothing about my father (Bernie) that I can be proud of."

Speaking in Filipino throughout the interview, Kirby repeated that his father Bernie had abandoned him, his brother and sister, and their mother Maita, when he was 5.

"I was still very young then," Kirby said. "I did not look for [Bernie] when I already had a mind of my own because there was already another person that I considered my father, even if I knew that he was not really my father."

Kirby said that after his father left, they survived by living with one relative after another. His youngest brother became a child star in a soap that starred Eddie Gutierrez, and was also a commercial talent.

"That was how we survived," Kirby said.

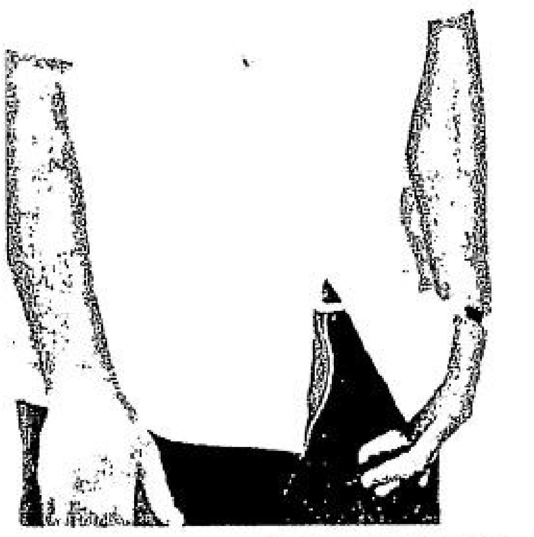
Who paid the bills

His mother met his stepfather on the set of the soap where his youngest brother was featured, Kirby said.

"My stepfather was the cameraman," said Kirby. "His name is Mike Vicencio. He and my mother have two children—one is 3, the other is 7 months old."

He said his stepfather has been supporting the family, especially after his brother stopped appearing in soaps and commercials because he had reached an awkward stage.

"My stepfather paid all our bills," said Kirby. "He really acted as if he were our real father. He lives with us. I don't think he has another family besides us."



STARSTRUCK KID Kirby de Jesus says he knows Bernie Fineza (right) is his father, "but not in the sense that I know him because we're together."

There are times, Kirby confessed, that he wished Mike Vicencio were his real father.

"I never asked my mother about my real father," Kirby admitted. "She did not want to be asked about him. I love my stepfather very, very much."

Last week, Bernie told INQUIRER Entertainment that he had tried to see Kirby and his other children but "they were kept away from me."

Now that his real father is asking Kirby to recognize him, the boy said he does not know what to do.

"I don't know what to say to that," he said. "My mom told me not to give any comment."

Kirby claimed that his mother had not forced him to join "StarStruck."

"If she forced me, why am I eager to attend (workshops, tapings)?" he said. "Even if no one accompanied me, it's OK."

TV commercials

Kirby said he joined "StarStruck," a talent search on GMA 7, since he is fond of talent shows like this. He recalled that he was also a finalist in "That's My Boy," a talent search on the noontime show "Eat Bulaga," also on GMA 7.

"I had wanted to join "StarStruck" since last year," Kirby said. "But I was only 14 then."

The show only accepts contestants who are at least 15 years old.

Kirby said he had done television commercials before he joined the amateur talent contest. The last commercial he did was a TV ad for a fabric conditioner, where he was in a supporting role, he said.

A high school student of Liceo Institute of Science and Technology in Bulacan, Kirby wants to be a "seasoned actor or a certified public accountant.

"But I really like to be an actor," he admitted. "If I am not lucky, enough, I would like to take up accounting. But I can't say what would happen in the future."

His reason for joining "StarStruck" and for wanting to be a star is so that he could have money to help his family.

"If I become famous, it's automatic that I would rise above my poverty," said Kirby, who lives in a small apartment in Bulacan.

"I want all my siblings to be able to study," he said. "I also want to be able to repay my stepfather's kindness."

Not a singer

Kirby wants his father Bernie to know that they are now living a quiet life.

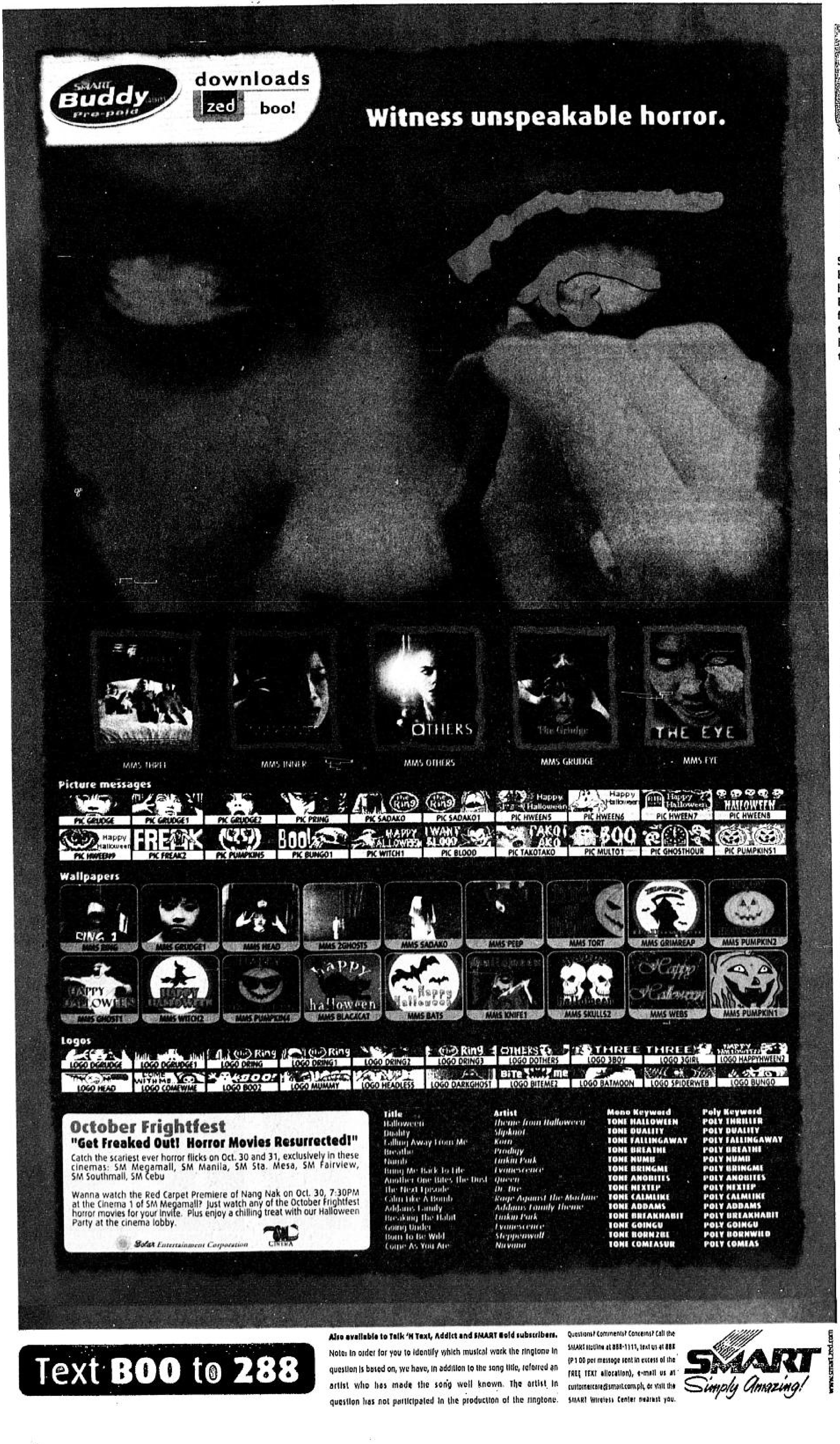
Asked if he were mad at his father for abandoning them, Kirby hesistated before saying, "That's a hard question to answer. I don't know."

He said he did not get his talent from his father. "I am not a singer (like him)," he said. "I am more into rap."

He is also not familiar with his father's songs in Hagibis, except for "Katawan," which was used as the theme song for "Palibhasa Lalake."

"I know he is my dad," said Kirby, referring to Bernie, "but not in the sense that I know him because we are together."

He considers his mother his best friend, describing their relationship as "very, very close."



SMART Buddy Pre-paid downloads zed boo!

Witness unspeakable horror.

MMS THREE
MMS INNER
OTHERS
MMS OTHERS
The Grudge
MMS GRUDGE
THE EYE
MMS EYE
Picture messages
PIC GRUDGE
PIC GRUDGE1
PIC GRUDGE2
PIC PRING
PIC SADAKO
PIC SADAKO1
PIC HWEEN5
PIC HWEEN6
PIC HWEEN7
PIC HWEEN8
PIC HWEEN9
PIC FREAK2
PIC PUMPKIN5
PIC BUNGO1
PIC WITCH1
PIC BLOOD
PIC TAKOTAKO
PIC MULTO1
PIC GHOSTHOUR
PIC PUMPKINS1
Wallpapers
MMS RING
MMS GRUDGE1
MMS HEAD
MMS 2GHOSTS
MMS SADAKO
MMS PEEP
MMS TORT
MMS GRIMREAP
MMS PUMPKIN2
MMS GHOST1
MMS WITCH2
MMS PUMPKIN4
MMS BLACKCAT
MMS BATS
MMS KNIFE1
MMS SKULLS2
MMS WEBS
MMS PUMPKIN1
Logos
LOGO DGRUDGE
LOGO DGRUDGE1
LOGO DRING
LOGO DRING1
LOGO DRING2
LOGO DRING3
LOGO DOTHERS
LOGO 3BOY
LOGO 3GIRL
LOGO HAPPYHWEEN2
LOGO HEAD
LOGO COMEWME
LOGO BOO2
LOGO MUMMY
LOGO HEADLESS
LOGO DARKGHOST
LOGO BITEME2
LOGO BATMOON
LOGO SPIDERWEB
LOGO BUNGO

Title	Artist	Mono Keyword	Poly Keyword
Halloween	*Theme from Halloween*	TONE HALLOWEEN	POLY THRILLER
Duality	*Slipknot*	TONE DUALITY	POLY DUALITY
Falling Away From Me	*Korn*	TONE FALLINGAWAY	POLY FALLINGAWAY
Breathe	*Prodigy*	TONE BREATHE	POLY BREATHE
Numb	*Linkin Park*	TONE NUMB	POLY NUMB
Bring Me Back To Life	*Evanescence*	TONE BRINGME	POLY BRINGME
Another One Bites The Dust	*Queen*	TONE ANOBITES	POLY ANOBITES
The Next Episode	*Dr. Dre*	TONE NEXTEP	POLY NEXTEP
Calm Like A Bomb	*Rage Against the Machine*	TONE CALMLIKE	POLY CALMLIKE
Addams Family	*Addams Family Theme*	TONE ADDAMS	POLY ADDAMS
Breaking The Habit	*Linkin Park*	TONE BREAKHABIT	POLY BREAKHABIT
Going Under	*Evanescence*	TONE GOINGU	POLY GOINGU
Born To Be Wild	*Steppenwolf*	TONE BORN2BE	POLY BORNWILD
Come As You Are	*Nirvana*	TONE COMEASUR	POLY COMEAS

October Frightfest
"Get Freaked Out! Horror Movies Resurrected!"
Catch the scariest ever horror flicks on Oct. 30 and 31, exclusively in these cinemas: SM Megamall, SM Manila, SM Sta. Mesa, SM Fairview, SM Southmall, SM Cebu

Wanna watch the Red Carpet Premiere of Nang Nak on Oct. 30, 7:30PM at the Cinema 1 of SM Megamall? Just watch any of the October Frightfest horror movies for your invite. Plus enjoy a chilling treat with our Halloween Party at the cinema lobby.

Solar Entertainment Corporation

Text BOO to 288

Also available to Talk 'N Text, Addict and SMART Gold subscribers.
Note: In order for you to identify which musical work the ringtone in question is based on, we have, in addition to the song title, referred an artist who has made the song well known. The artist in question has not participated in the production of the ringtone.

Questions? Comments? Concerns? Call the SMART Hotline at 888-1111, text us at 888 (P1.00 per message sent in excess of the FREE TEXT allocation), e-mail us at customercare@smart.com.ph, or visit the SMART Wireless Center nearest you.

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ENTERTAINMENT

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E-mail: pr_entertainment@inquirer.com.ph

Editor Louie C. Camino
Assistant Editor Emmie G. Velarde

No third party caused our split, says Paolo Contis /A24

BEFORE BREAKUP. Paolo Contis and Nancy Castiglione

NOT ME. Luis Manzano says he did not cause breakup

CRUSADER Harrison Ford

'Indiana Jones' fights for his elk herd

SHOW STOPPER

JACKSON, Wyoming—Actor Harrison Ford is drawing the line—right at his property—against state efforts to thin the elk herd.

Elk living near Ford's ranch belong to the larger Fall Creek Herd, which numbers 5,100, exceeding the state's population objective of 4,400 animals.

"The problem is that a lot of landowners don't allow permission to hunt," said Mark Gocke, spokesperson for the Wyoming Game and Fish Department. "That's why this particular herd segment has grown so much."

Ford has created a private elk refuge of sorts with elk summering on his property in South Park.

"(Ford) doesn't want any hunting to take place on his property," said John Kelly, who manages the ranch for the actor. "He told me that if I caught anyone to turn them in."

Kelly said he's placed signs warning would-be hunters along the border between Ford's property and that of a neighboring housing development.

State officials want to thin the heard to protect cottonwood habitat on the Snake River. They also are concerned about elk mingling with cattle because of the potential for transmitting diseases and because elk may damage stored hay.

AP

MTRCB RATING ▶ R-13 STRICTLY FOR 13 YEARS OF AGE AND UP

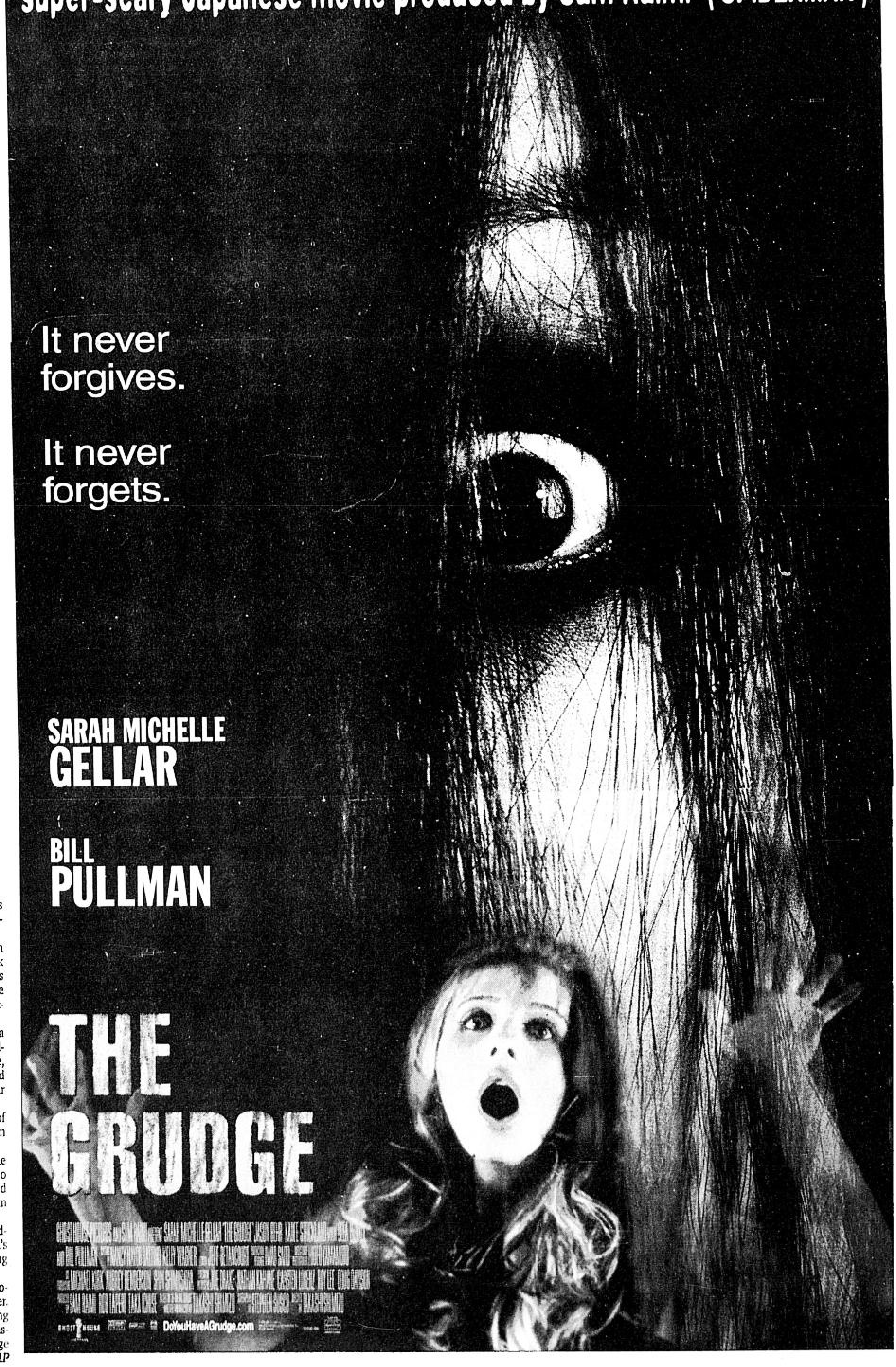
OPENS TODAY

THE FILM THAT SHOCKED AMERICA

#1 SUPER BLOCKBUSTER

US$40M gross in just 3 days

After "THE RING" comes the American remake of another super-scary Japanese movie produced by Sam Raimi (SPIDERMAN)



'Manchurian Candidate' premiere

WASHINGTON (left) and Schreiber in "Manchurian"

BASED on Richard Condon's classic bestselling novel, the mesmerizing story of mind control and abuse of political power was first filmed in 1962 starring Frank Sinatra in the role of Major Ben Marco. After more than four decades, Sintra's daughter Tina Sinatra has produced the 2004 remake of "The Manchurian Candidate."

The premiere of "The Manchurian Candidate" on Friday, Oct. 29, at SM City Manila is sponsored by the Philippine Council of Management for the benefit of the Collectors Association of the Bureau of Customs.

Directed by Academy Award winner Jonathan Demme ("The Silence of the Lambs"), the contemporary version stars Oscar winners Denzel Washington ("Training Day," "Glory") as the tormented Major Marco, Meryl Streep ("Sophie's Choice," "Kramer vs Kramer") as the powerful Sen. Eleanor Shaw, Jon Voight ("Coming Home") as Eleanor's political nemesis and young star Liev Schreiber ("Scream 1,2,3") as Shaw's congressman son.

Co-written by Daniel Pyne ("The Sum of All Fears") and Dean Georgaris ("Lara Croft: The Cradle of Life"), "The Manchurian Candidate" is presented by Paramount Pictures and released in the Philippines by United International Pictures through Solar Entertainment Corp.

For premiere tickets, call 522-4204, 245-2796, or 832-3035. Regular run starts Nov. 3.

#1 MOVIE IN AMERICA
THE GRUDGE's spectacular
$40M boxoffice
(first three days of release)

Sarah Michelle Gellar and Bill Pullman in THE GRUDGE

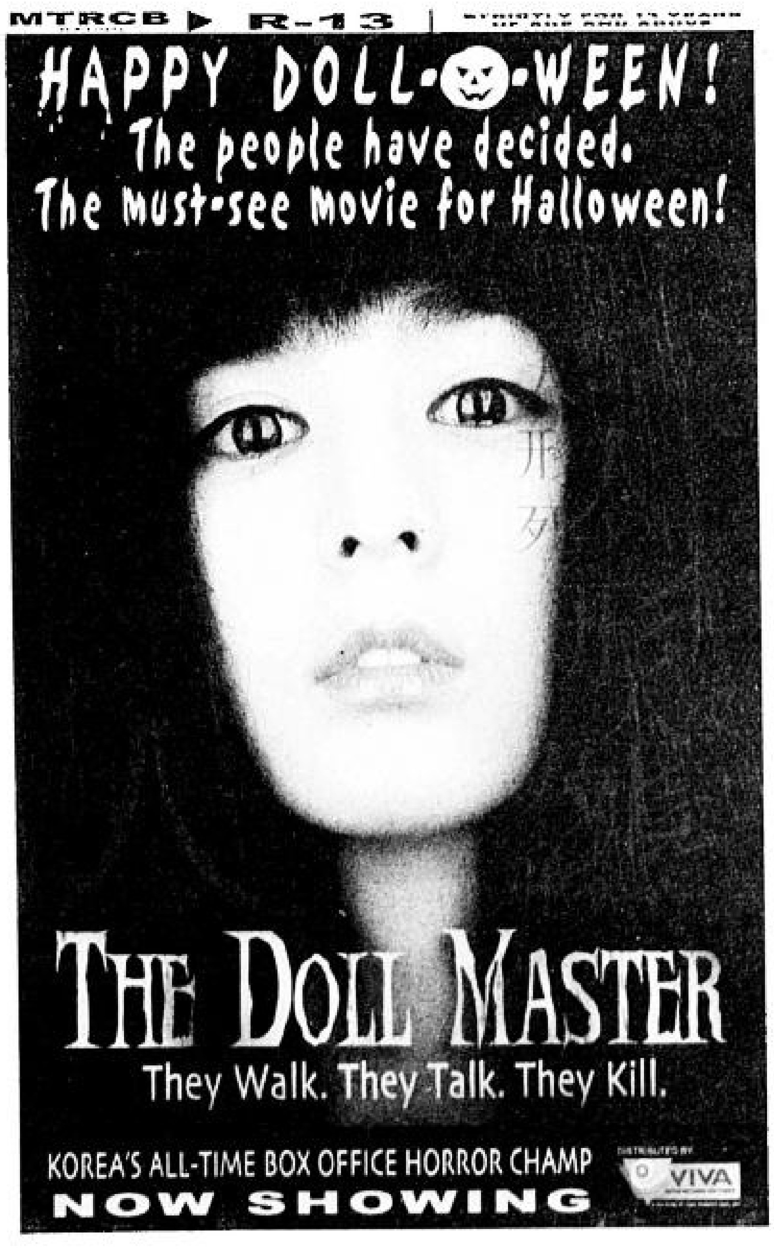
THIS WEEKEND Sarah Michelle Gellar led the North American box office with the opening of the new horror film **The Grudge** which sprinted past industry expectations to deliver a spectacular bow at number one.

Two years ago in October, DreamWorks opened **The Ring** (a remake of Hideo Nakata's **Ringu**) to just $15 (compared to The Grudge's 40m) on its way to $129.1M and has **The Ring 2** (to be directed by Nakata) slated for release in March 2005. **The Grudge** should continue to encourage Hollywood studios to buy up remake rights for hit Asian films from Japan, South Korea, and Hong Kong which can be transformed into American blockbusters with western stars.

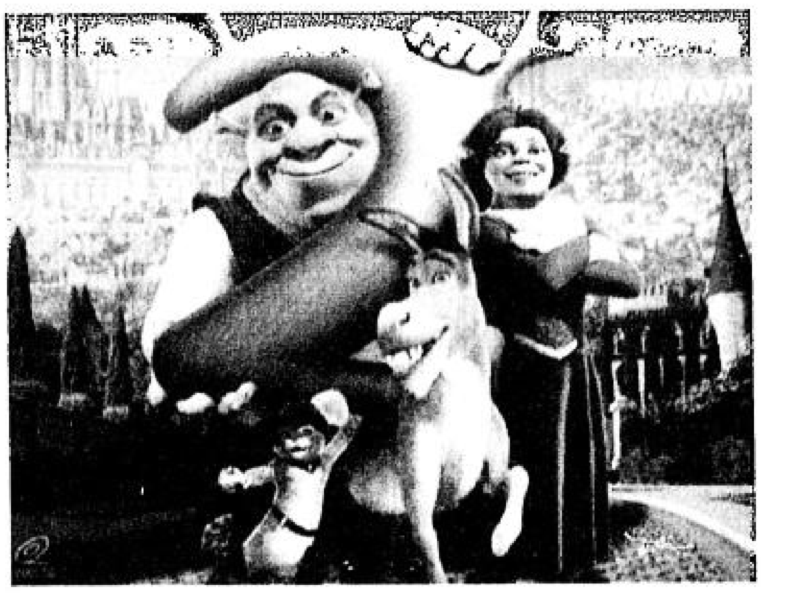
Scaring up a horrifyingly potent $40M in its opening weekend, according to estimates, Sony's **The Grudge** took control of the box office grossing more than the next four films combined as young moviegoers looking for a fright flick a week before Halloween lined up in huge numbers. The Sam Raimi (Spiderman) produced remake of the hit Japanese thriller **Ju-On: The Grudge** boasted the same director, Takashi Shimizu, and found the former vampire slayer playing an American student in Japan working in a house haunted by a curse. Playing extremely wide in 3,245 theaters, **The Grudge** averaged a bone chilling $12,327 per venue.

Gellar brought plenty of starpower to her fifth career top spot debut which featured her in exactly the type of film that fans wanted to see her in. Sony picked a terrific launch date as late October is typically when moviegoers demand scary movies the most. [BY GITESH PANDYA, WWW.BOXOFFICEGURU.COM]

ADVT.


MTRCB ▶ R-13
HAPPY DOLL-O-WEEN!
The people have decided.
The must-see movie for Halloween!
THE DOLL MASTER
They Walk. They Talk. They Kill.
KOREA'S ALL-TIME BOX OFFICE HORROR CHAMP
VIVA
NOW SHOWING

Magnavision brings 'Shrek 2,' holds parties

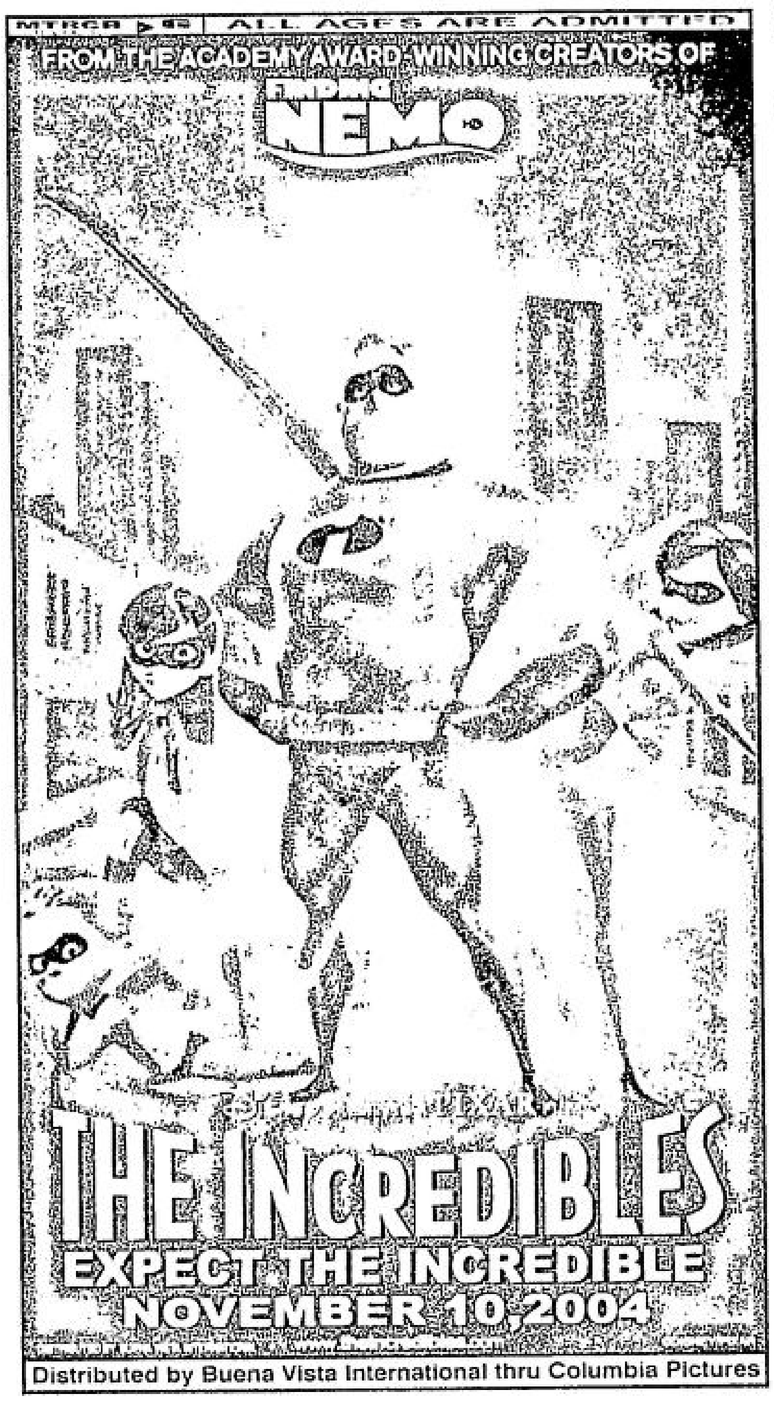


"SHREK 2"

ONCE upon a time, an ogre embarked on the ultimate adventure, battling a dragon and climbing the tallest tower to rescue a princess. Now, Shrek is back for more, with Princess Fiona and Donkey in the kingdom of Far Far Away. They meet hesitant in-laws, the devilishly cunning Fairy Godmother, the self-absorbed Prince Charming and the ferocious yet adorable feline Puss in Boots.

Magnavision Home Video and Dreamworks Entertainment bring the biggest animated film of all time in "Shrek 2." Each purchase of the "Shrek 2" video gives the buyer a chance to win instant prizes, as well as to sing your heart out with the Magic Sing Premium Microphone at Odyssey and O-Music outlets nationwide. Buyers can also win a Samsung Home Theater in the raffle promo at all Astrovision outlets.

Magnavision holds a Halloween masquerade party at The Podium (The Lounge) on Oct. 29 to 31, and the Funtastic Halloween masquerade party on Oct. 30 to 31 at the Greenhills Theater Mall. The Halloween parties are also presented by Samsung and Act II, in cooperation with The Podium and Greenhills Theater Mall. They are also sponsored by Selecta Moo, Legend Cheeky Curls, Fruitella Lollipops, World of Fun, Kidz World, Pottery Exchange, Picture Company and Powerbooks, with media partners Mellow Touch 94.7, 103.5 K-Lite, 91.5 Energy FM, 93.9 I-FM and ClicktheCity.com.


MTRCB ▶ GP ALL AGES ARE ADMITTED
FROM THE ACADEMY AWARD-WINNING CREATORS OF FINDING NEMO
THE INCREDIBLES
EXPECT THE INCREDIBLE
NOVEMBER 10, 2004
Distributed by Buena Vista International thru Columbia Pictures

MTRCB ▶ GP ALL AGES ADMITTED
NOW SHOWING
AMERICA's #1 MOVIE
DESTROY THE WORLD
Gwyneth PALTROW
Jude LAW
and Angelina JOLIE
SKY CAPTAIN and the WORLD of TOMORROW

No third party caused . . .

From page A2-4

the network's rival, GMA 7, to be with Nancy.

The now-un-couple can be seen every Sunday on the soap "Love to Love" on GMA 7.

"A lot of reporters have been calling me about the break-up, but I prefer not to talk," said Paolo, adding that whatever the cause of the separation was, he'd rather keep it between him and Nancy.

"I really don't know what would happen next," he said. "*Basta* right now, we're on a cooling off stage. We're trying to work things out.

"If I say we're doing fine, *baka mapahiya ako dahil hindi pala*. If I say it's bad, I might ruin my only shot at saving it."

Paolo said he does not spend as much time with Nancy now because he is busy filming "Spirit of the Glass" for the Metro Manila Film Festival in December.

"But we still communicate," he said. "We exchange text messages and call each other as often as we can."

Paolo and Nancy were both on the now-defunct GMA 7 tele-series, "Hanggang Kailan." Paolo played the kind-hearted Dennis who fell in love with the deaf-mute Tara, portrayed by Nancy.

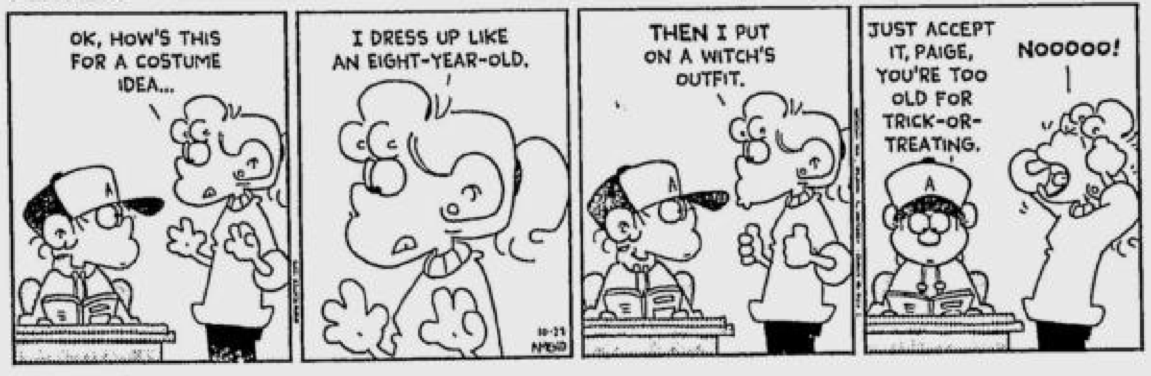
Paolo said he left ABS-CBN because his contract with the network had expired and he got a good offer from the other network. At the same time, the move gave him the chance to be in the same network with his girlfriend, he added.

3RD WEEK!
MTRCB RATING PG-13 PARENTS ARE ADVISED OF SOME BATTLE SCENES THAT MAYBE INAPPROPRIATE FOR CHILDREN BELOW 8 YRS OLD.
FROM THE PRODUCER OF "CROUCHING TIGER, HIDDEN DRAGON" AND "HERO"
HOUSE OF FLYING DAGGERS
DISTRIBUTED BY WARNER BROS. PICTURES

Laugh Out Loud as FBI Agents Go Undercover!
2nd GENDER BENDER COMEDY WEEK!
MTRCB ▶ PG-13
To protect two white divas, they have to become them.
FBI
FBI
WHITE CHICKS
FROM THE DIRECTOR OF "SCARY MOVIE"
Distributed by COLUMBIA PICTURES

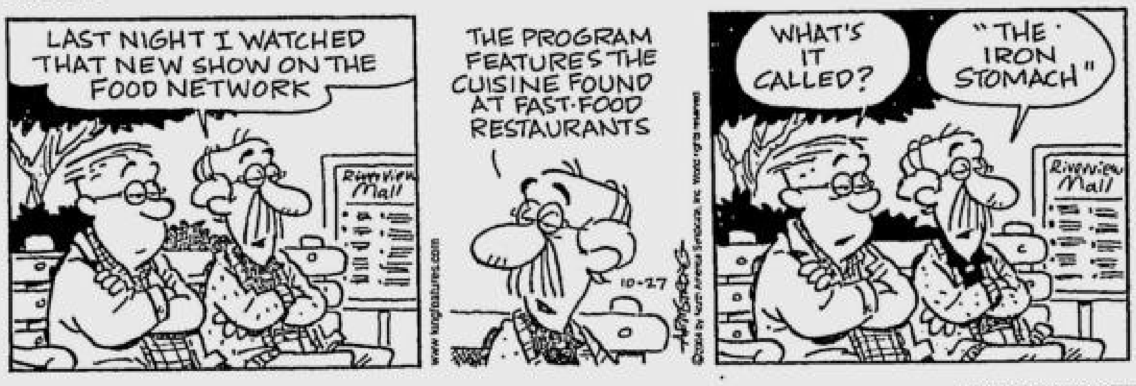
FOXTROT

BY BILL AMEND


OK, HOW'S THIS FOR A COSTUME IDEA...
I DRESS UP LIKE AN EIGHT-YEAR-OLD.
THEN I PUT ON A WITCH'S OUTFIT.
JUST ACCEPT IT, PAIGE, YOU'RE TOO OLD FOR TRICK-OR-TREATING.
NOOOOO!
10-27
AMEND

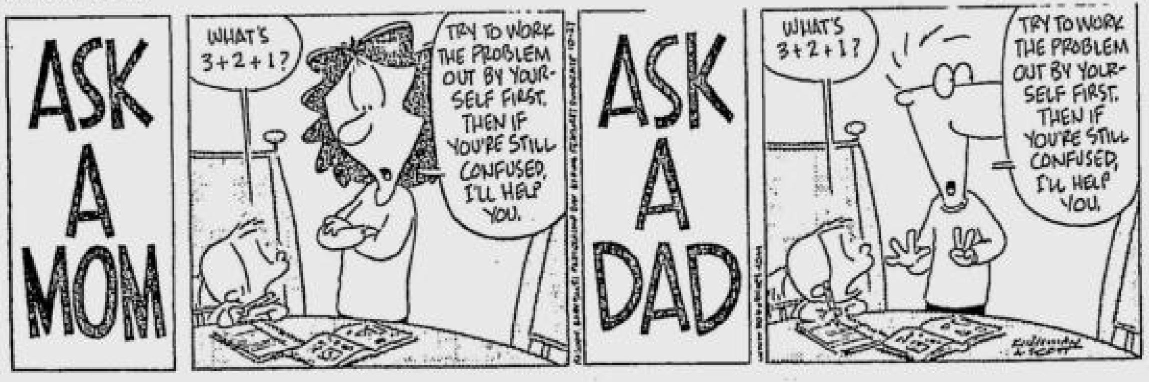
MARVIN

BY TOM ARMSTRONG


LAST NIGHT I WATCHED THAT NEW SHOW ON THE FOOD NETWORK
Riverview Mall
THE PROGRAM FEATURES THE CUISINE FOUND AT FAST-FOOD RESTAURANTS
10-27
WHAT'S IT CALLED?
"THE IRON STOMACH"
Riverview Mall

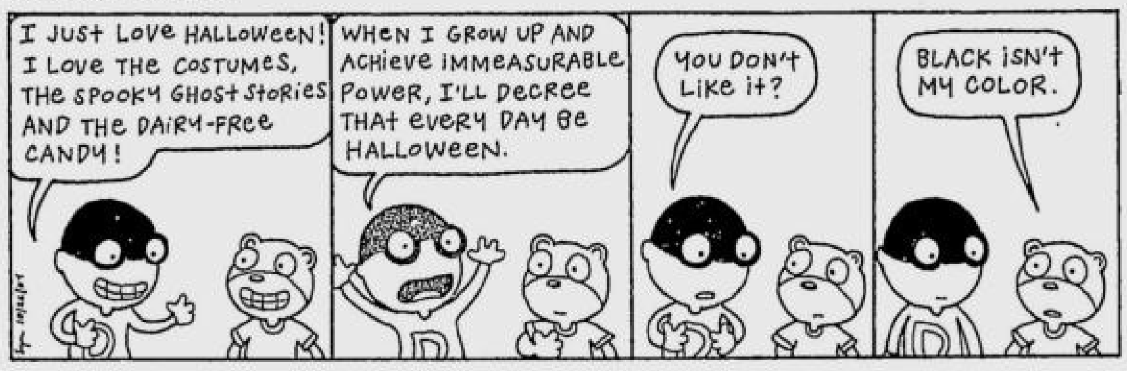
BABY BLUES

BY JERRY SCOTT


ASK A MOM
WHAT'S 3+2+1?
TRY TO WORK THE PROBLEM OUT BY YOURSELF FIRST. THEN IF YOU'RE STILL CONFUSED, I'LL HELP YOU.
ASK A DAD
WHAT'S 3+2+1?
TRY TO WORK THE PROBLEM OUT BY YOURSELF FIRST. THEN IF YOU'RE STILL CONFUSED, I'LL HELP YOU.

ATOMO AND WEBOY

BY LYRA GARCELLANO


I JUST LOVE HALLOWEEN! I LOVE THE COSTUMES, THE SPOOKY GHOST STORIES AND THE DAIRY-FREE CANDY!
WHEN I GROW UP AND ACHIEVE IMMEASURABLE POWER, I'LL DECREE THAT EVERY DAY BE HALLOWEEN.
YOU DON'T LIKE IT?
BLACK ISN'T MY COLOR.

HOROSCOPE

BY FRANCIS DRAKE

YOU BORN TODAY: You have a natural way with words. You're convincing, witty and intelligent. People want to hear what you have to say. You're also emotional and energetic! (Few know how sensitive you are.) You like to be appreciated, and you perform best when this happens. Increased solitude in the year ahead will help you learn something important.
Birthdate of: John Cleese, actor; Dylan Thomas, writer; Theodore Roosevelt, 26th US president.

ARIES (March 21 to April 19): Resist the urge to try to make somebody over today, especially a partner or someone close to you. You have to learn to live and let live.

TAURUS (April 20 to May 20): You can get gargantuan amounts of work accomplished today! You're ready to move mountains. You will certainly work until the job is done. (Admirable.)

GEMINI (May 21 to June 20): You feel flirtatious and attractive (And of course, you're youthful and playful because you always will be.) This means you can have a great time with others.

CANCER (June 21 to July 22): You can make great improvements at home today. They might be related to renovations, plumbing, garbage, septic systems and recycling. Work hard right now.

LEO (July 23 to Aug. 22): This is an extremely successful day for you if you're in sales, writing, teaching, marketing or any job that emphasizes communications. You are super-persuasive today!

VIRGO (Aug. 23 to Sept. 22): Today you have the motivation and energy to boost your earnings. You might think of entirely new ways of earning money today. Or you might think of a new job you can do.

LIBRA (Sept. 23 to Oct. 22): You'll strive very hard to get what you want today. You're turned on and motivated! Furthermore, you see what is actually possible. (That is what really triggers you.)

SCORPIO (Oct. 23 to Nov. 21): Now is the time to talk to government officials or people in libraries, prisons and hospitals. You'll be like a hot knife cutting through butter. Everyone will step aside for you.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22 to Dec. 21): This is a good day for group activity. You can get a lot done through others. As the old saying goes, "Many hands make light work." (Not a light-bulb joke.)

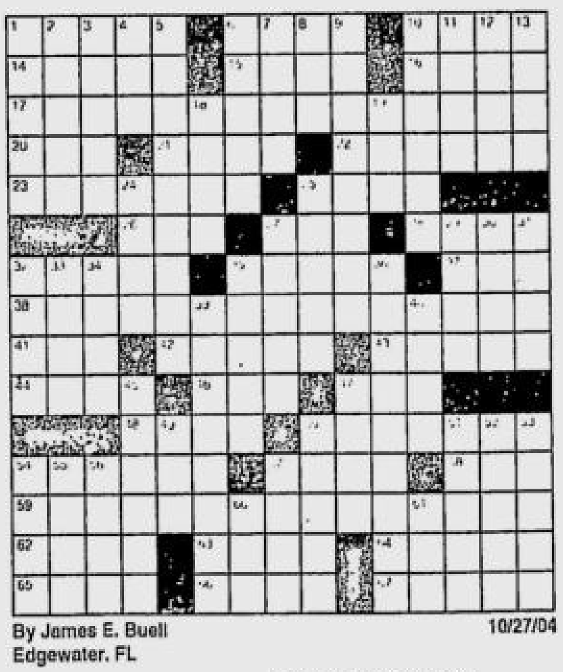
CAPRICORN (Dec. 22 to Jan. 19): You're very ambitious today. You want something, and you intend to get it. Since motivation is half the battle, you will get what you're after.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20 to Feb. 18): It's as if ordinary, everyday boundaries don't exist for you today. Plans to travel or expand your world through education unfold easily. Try to help others as well as yourself.

PISCES (Feb. 19 to March 20): You have a chance to use the resources of someone else to make improvements in your own career. And possibly, others are just ready to help you.

DAILY CROSSWORD

ACROSS
1 English track
6 Weaponry
10 Word of woe
14 "Chico and the Man" co-star
15 Half a satyr
16 People
17 Bothers
20 Yale grad
21 Top-rated
22 Stick
23 Makeshift ballpark
25 Creole veggie
26 Long-standing
27 Anatomical pouch
28 California wine valley
32 Shorthand, in short
35 Sarandon of "Bull Durham"
37 Swap punches
38 Bothers
41 Water cooler?
42 Tournament rankings
43 Confession of faith
44 Used cars
46 Born in Brest
47 Christmas drink
48 Navel fuzz
50 Very arid
54 Greasy spoon
57 Box or bucket follower
58 "Norma _ _"
59 Bothers
62 Old Mercury coin
63 Leave off
64 Con-game decoy
65 Arabian gulf
66 "Six Feet Under" character
67 Broadway awards



By James E. Buell
Edgewater, FL
10/27/04

DOWN
1 Parcels of suburbia
2 NFL coaching great Don
3 Room on a liner
4 Alternatives
5 Complete bust
6 Go-between
7 "Lady Jane Grey" dramatist
8 Damage a bit
9 Petty vehicle
10 Crocheted blanket
11 Former Brat-Packer Rob
12 Banned apple spray
13 Terrier type
18 Thug
19 Here-there link
24 Concluded
25 Drying kilns
27 Soft leather
29 French cleric
30 Krakow native
31 Chopped
32 Mix
33 Tex-Mex item
34 Just managed, with "out"
35 Piece of paper
36 Courtroom plea
39 "Break, Break, Break" poet
40 Strong inclination
45 Side-by-side ones?
47 Wordsmith Webster
49 High dudgeon
50 Actress Davis
51 Waste pipe
52 Reassembling
53 Hollers
54 Icelandic epic
55 Parched
56 Ump's call
57 Bar in a grill
60 Thurman of "Kill Bill"
61 Sci-fi Doctor

Tuesday's Puzzle Solved

C	A	R	T	■	A	B	A	S	E	■	E	D	G	E
H	O	E	R	■	L	A	S	T	S	■	T	O	I	L
I	N	F	I	E	L	D	H	I	T	■	H	U	L	K
P	E	S	E	T	A	■	E	R	O	D	I	B	L	E
■	■	■	D	O	L	E	■	S	P	O	O	L	■	■
R	A	H	■	N	O	V	A	■	S	U	P	E	R	S
A	D	O	S	■	N	E	R	D	■	R	I	P	E	N
T	A	U	T	■	G	R	E	E	D	■	A	L	T	O
E	G	R	E	T	■	T	A	M	E	■	N	A	I	R
D	E	B	R	I	S	■	S	U	N	G	■	Y	E	T
■	■	A	N	N	E	S	■	R	I	M	E	■	■	■
M	A	G	N	E	T	I	C	■	Z	E	B	R	A	S
U	R	G	E	■	S	T	O	L	E	N	B	A	S	E
L	I	E	S	■	T	A	L	O	N	■	E	V	E	R
L	A	R	S	■	O	R	A	L	S	■	D	E	A	F

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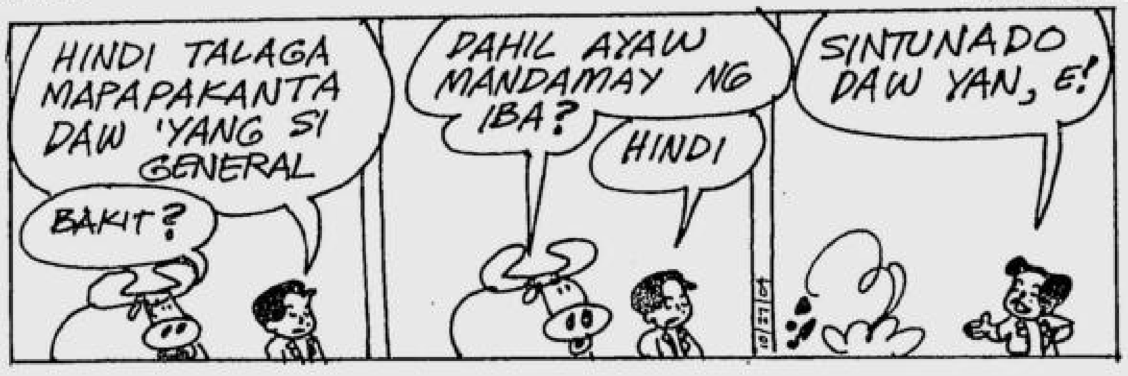
10/27/04

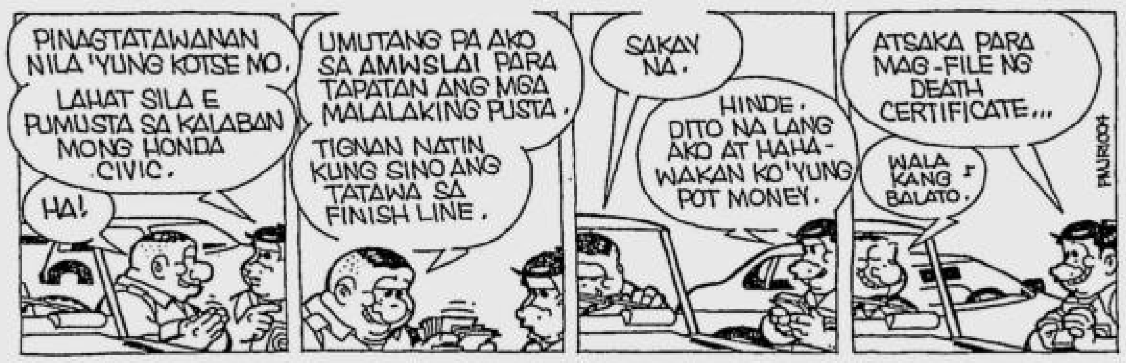
A. LIPIN

BY JESS ABRERA


HINDI TALAGA MAPAPAKANTA DAW 'YANG SI GENERAL
BAKIT?
DAHIL AYAW MANDAMAY NG IBA?
HINDI
10/27/04
SINTUNADO DAW YAN, E!

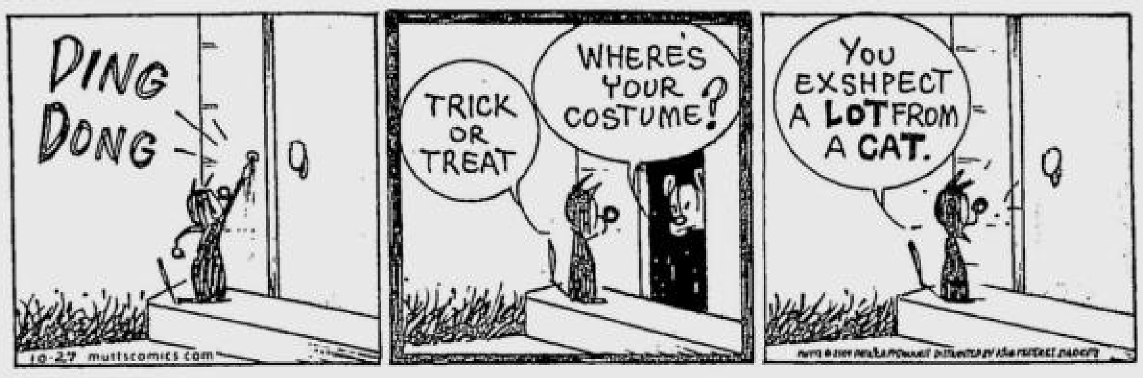
PUGAD BABOY

BY P.M. JUNIOR


PINAGTATAWANAN NILA 'YUNG KOTSE MO.
LAHAT SILA E PUMUSTA SA KALABAN MONG HONDA CIVIC.
HA!
UMUTANG PA AKO SA AMWSLAI PARA TAPATAN ANG MGA MALALAKING PUSTA.
TIGNAN NATIN KUNG SINO ANG TATAWA SA FINISH LINE.
SAKAY NA.
HINDE. DITO NA LANG AKO AT HAHAWAKAN KO 'YUNG POT MONEY.
ATSAKA PARA MAG-FILE NG DEATH CERTIFICATE...
WALA KANG BALATO.
PMJR2004

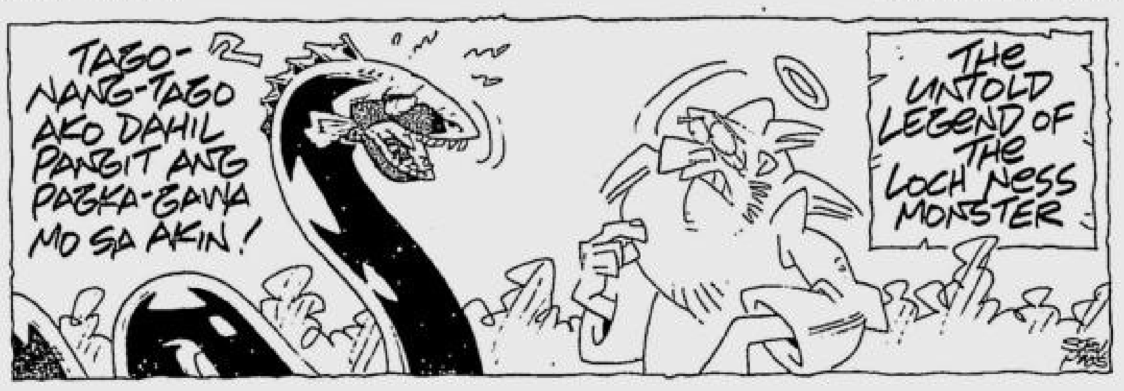
MUTTS

BY PATRICK McDONNELL


DING DONG
TRICK OR TREAT
WHERE'S YOUR COSTUME?
YOU EXSHPECT A LOT FROM A CAT.
10-27 muttscomics.com

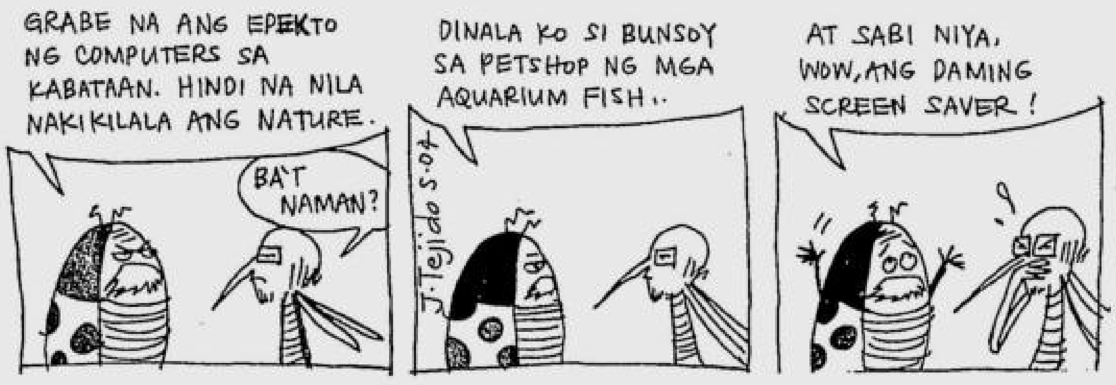
DIVINE COMEDY

BY STEVEN PABALINAS


TAGO-NANG-TAGO AKO DAHIL PANGIT ANG PAGKA-GAWA MO SA AKIN!
THE UNTOLD LEGEND OF THE LOCH NESS MONSTER

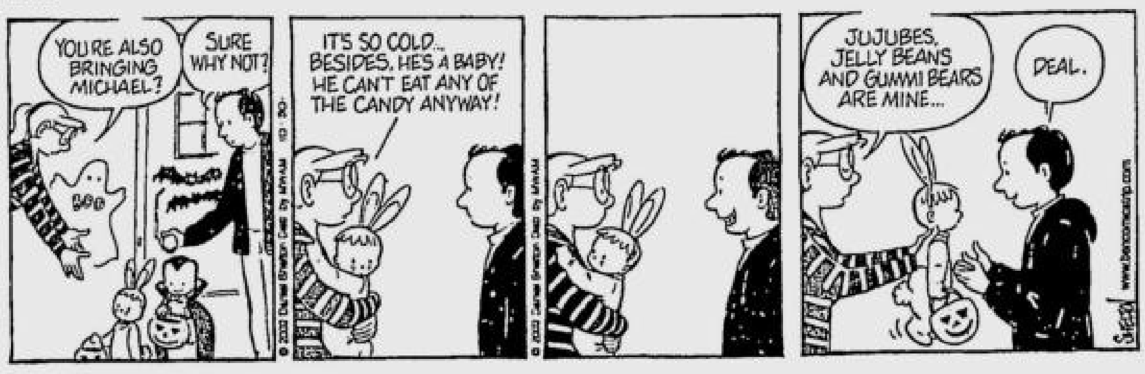
MIKROKOSMOS

BY JOMIKE TEJIDO


GRABE NA ANG EPEKTO NG COMPUTERS SA KABATAAN. HINDI NA NILA NAKIKILALA ANG NATURE.
BA'T NAMAN?
DINALA KO SI BUNSOY SA PETSHOP NG MGA AQUARIUM FISH..
J. Tejido 5-04
AT SABI NIYA, WOW, ANG DAMING SCREEN SAVER!

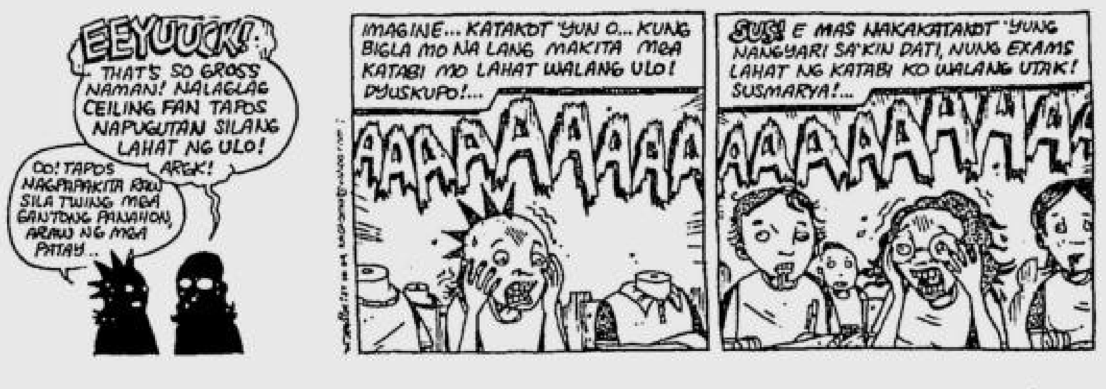
BEN

BY DANIEL SHELTON


YOU'RE ALSO BRINGING MICHAEL?
SURE WHY NOT?
BOO
IT'S SO COLD.. BESIDES, HE'S A BABY! HE CAN'T EAT ANY OF THE CANDY ANYWAY!
JUJUBES, JELLY BEANS AND GUMMI BEARS ARE MINE...
DEAL.

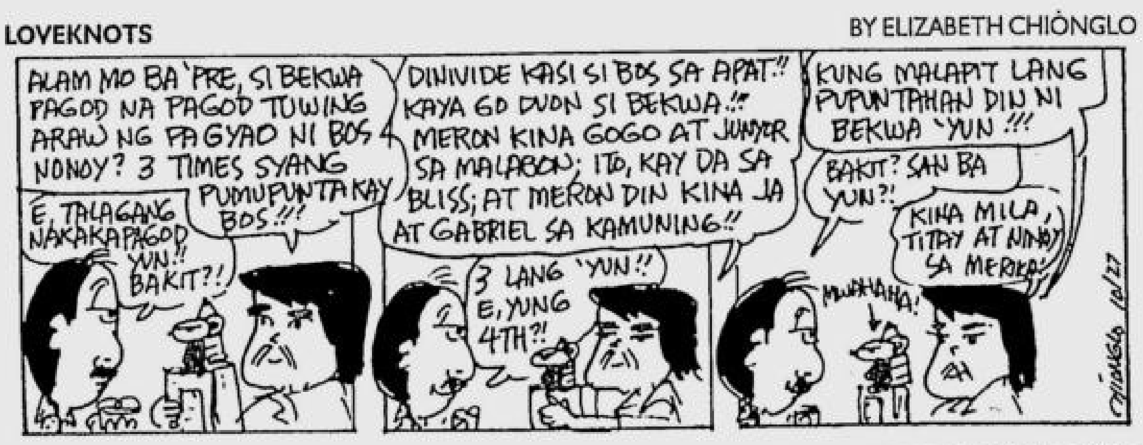
KIKO MACHINE

BY MANIX ABRERA


EEYUUCK!
THAT'S SO GROSS NAMAN! NALAGLAG CEILING FAN TAPOS NAPUGUTAN SILANG LAHAT NG ULO! ARGK!
OO! TAPOS NAGPAPAKITA RAW SILA TWING MGA GANTONG PANAHON, ARAW NG MGA PATAY...
IMAGINE... KATAKOT 'YUN O... KUNG BIGLA MO NA LANG MAKITA MGA KATABI MO LAHAT WALANG ULO! DYUSKUPO!...
AAAAAAAAAA
SUS! E MAS NAKAKATAKOT 'YUNG NANGYARI SA'KIN DATI, NUNG EXAMS LAHAT NG KATABI KO WALANG UTAK! SUSMARYA!...
AAAAAAAHH

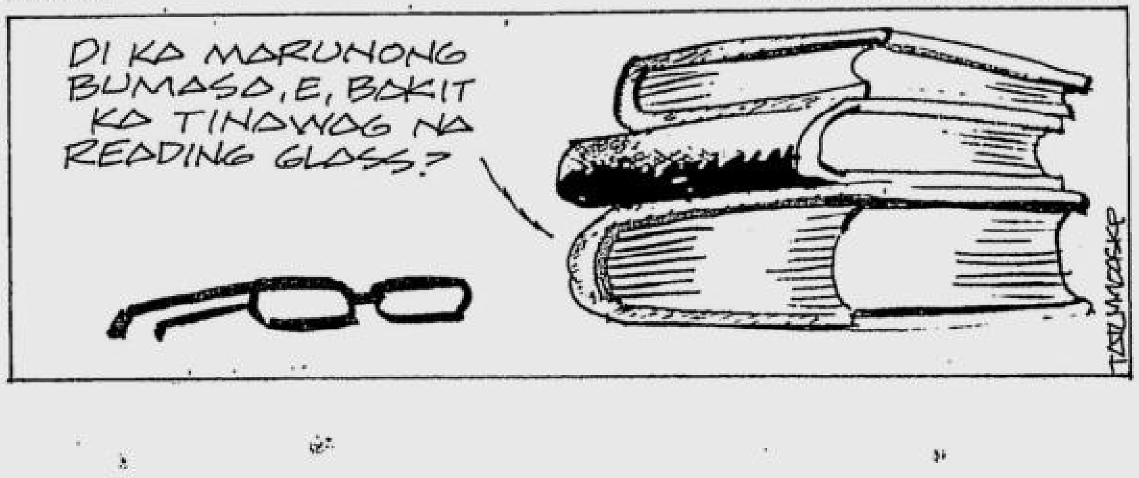
LOVEKNOTS

BY ELIZABETH CHIÒNGLO


ALAM MO BA 'PRE, SI BEKWA PAGOD NA PAGOD TUWING ARAW NG PAGYAO NI BOS NONOY? 3 TIMES SYANG PUMUPUNTA KAY BOS!!!
E, TALAGANG NAKAKAPAGOD YUN!! BAKIT?!
DINIVIDE KASI SI BOS SA APAT!! KAYA GO DUON SI BEKWA!! MERON KINA GOGO AT JUNYOR SA MALABON; ITO, KAY DA SA BLISS; AT MERON DIN KINA JA AT GABRIEL SA KAMUNING!!
3 LANG 'YUN!! E, YUNG 4TH?!
KUNG MALAPIT LANG PUPUNTAHAN DIN NI BEKWA 'YUN!!!
BAKIT? SAN BA YUN?!
KINA MILA, TITAY AT NINAY SA MERIKA!
MWAHAHA!
CHIONGLO 10/27

TULDOK

BY PAPU AND TATUM MILAMBILING


DI KA MARUNONG BUMASA, E, BAKIT KA TINAWAG NA READING GLASS?
TATUM

ENTERTAINMENT

'No third party caused our split'

By Marinel R. Cruz

YOUNG actor Paolo Contis insists that his eight-month relationship with Fil-Canadian Nancy Castiglione did not end because of a third party.

"I find it offensive that some people make it look like Nancy cheated me," Paolo told INQUIRER Entertainment last week. "It's not true. *Kawawa naman ang* girlfriend ko.

"Neither of us got involved with other people while Nancy and I were together," Paolo stressed.

According to talk in show biz circles, Nancy's former boyfriend, Luis Manzano, was the cause of the breakup. But in an interview on the show biz talk show "The Buzz" on ABS-CBN last week, Luis said he had indeed heard of the couple's break-up, but he denied that he was involved.

"I'm concerned, but I'm sure Luis is man enough to handle the issue," Paolo said of his alleged rival. "I've not talked to him about it yet."

A few days after the INQUIRER Entertainment interview, Paolo and Luis were spotted in a restaurant inside the ABS-CBN compound in Quezon City. The source said Luis and Paolo did not come together, and sat on opposite sides of the restaurant.

But the two young men were "civil to each other," the source said.

Paolo and Nancy became sweethearts last Feb. 17. Three months later, Paolo, who used to be an ABS-CBN talent, decided to transfer to

NO THIRD/ A2-2

WHO, ME? Luis denies involvement in the breakup

UN-COUPLE. Paolo and Nancy before cooling off

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PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER TV GUIDE

Wednesday, October 27, 2004

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Inquirer In-Depth
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Channel	2:30PM	3:00PM	3:30PM	4:00PM	4:30PM	5:00PM	5:30PM	6:00PM	6:30PM	7:00PM	7:30PM	8:00PM	8:30PM	9:00PM	9:30PM	10:00PM	10:30PM	11:00PM	11:30PM
ABS-CBN		Sarah The Teen Princess	Maid In Heaven	Sandara's Romance	Tokyo Underground	Samurai X	Get Backers	Ragnarok	TV Patrol	Star Circle Natl Teen Quest	Krystala	Marina	Hiram	It Might Be You	Yes Yes Show			Insider	Special Assignment
NBN	Value Vision				Teledyaryo	Value Vision		Paco Park Presents		Talk Ko 'To		Teledyaryo				MMDA On The Road		Oras ng Katotohanan	
ABC	Problema Nyo, Sagot Ko	Pro-Game Show	PBA				Sentro	PBA					Big News	Diretsahan	Greatest Fights Of The Century		Dream Music Videos		
GMA	Leya (2:45 PM)	Joyride (3:15 PM)	Twin Sisters: 100% Señorita		One Piece	Rune Soldier	Slam Dunk	24 Oras		Extra Challenge		Mulawin (7:50 PM)		Starstruck (8:50 PM)	Forever In My Heart (9:20 PM)	Nuts Entertainment			Saksi
RPN	Metro TV Shopping			Direct Line		Wild Thornberries	Sponge Bob	Invader Zim	Entertainment Tonight	Malcolm In The Middle	Still Standing	8 Simple Rules	Scrubs	Girls Behaving Badly	Hidden Hills	Newswatch Now	Cerge For Truth		
IBC		Home Shopping Network		Home Shopping Network		IBC Express Balita		Home Shopping Network		Global Family Series	Retro TV	Global Family Series		Unawin Natin		BYK 101	IBC News Tonite	Breaking Barriers	
Solar		Wwe Heat		WWE Confidential		Streetfighter	Skeleton Warriors	Samurai Jack	Heavy Gear	Invisible Man		Wwe Raw				Wwe Heat		WWE Experience	
Nickelodeon	Dora, The Explorer	Little Bear	Blues Clues	SpongeBob SquarePants	All That	Are You Afraid of the Dark?	100 Deeds of Eddie McDowd	Are You Afraid of the Dark?	Invader Zim/Catdog	Fairly Odd Parents	SpongeBob SquarePants	As Told By Ginger	Are You Afraid of the Dark?	All That	100 Deeds of Eddie McDowd	The Amanda Show	Rocket Power	The Wild Thornberrys	The Brother's Garcia
ETC		Knock First	JKX	The Today Show		Starting Over		NBC Nightly News	Entertainment Tonight	Will & Grace	Good Morning Miami	For Love Or Money		Meet My Folks		Tonight Show With Jay Leno		Blind Date	Fifth Wheel
Cinema One	Kailangan Kita				Sa Piling Ng Aswang					Haring Daga			Persona	Magnifico				Laban Ko Ito Walang Dapat Madamay	
Studio 23								Batman Animated Series	Samurai Deeper Kyo	Wazzup Wazzup	Mr. Bean	C.S.I.	Angel	Alias		News Central	The Oprah Winfrey Show		Spin City
AXN		Fear Factor		Alias		Ripley's Believe It or Not		Samurai X	Samurai X	24		Maximum Exposure		CSI: Miami		Fear Factor		Alias	
Star World		The Bold & The Beautiful		Hollywood Squares	Home Improvement	Baywatch		The Simpsons	The Drew Carey Show	Star News Asia	Just Shoot Me	Ed		Hell Freezes Over				Just Shoot Me	Ed
CNN		Business International		Larry King Live		World News	World Sport	Business International		World News	World Sport	World News Asia		World News	World Sport	World News Asia		Your World Today	
National Geographic	On Assignment	Passport		Taboo		Rita Stuff	Young Global Hot Shots	The Snake Wranglers	Croc Chronicles With Dr. Brady Barr	Wild		About Asia		National Geographic Specials		Passport		Taboo 2	
Lifestyle Network	Country Style	Interiors By Design	Decorating With Style	Decorating Cents	Molto Mario	Sweet Dreams	30 Minute Meals	Bill Boggs Corner	Unwrapped	Wolfgang Puck's	E! Entertainment Special		E-News Weekend		Nigella Bites II Temple Food	Fine Living Special			
HBO		Divine Secrets Of The Ya-Ya Sisterhood				Ripley's Game (5:10 PM)				Cowboy Bebop: The Movie (7:05 PM)				Harry Potter And The Chamber Of Secrets					Analyze That (11:40PM)
Star Movies	Boiling Point			Skeletons				Commandments			The Grid (7:25 PM)			American Ninja 4			Phone Booth (10:40PM)		
Cartoon Network	Scooby-Doo Show	The All New Popeye Show		Tom & Jerry Show	Baby Looney Tunes	Sylvester & Tweety Mysteries	Police Academy	Swat Kats	Teen Titans	Yu-Gi-Oh!	Digimon Frontiers	Codename: Kids Next Door	The Looney Tunes Show	Courage The Cowardly Dog	The Grim Adventures Of Billy & Mandy	The Addams Family	The Funky Phantom	Boomerang - Boomeraction	Yu-Gi-Oh!
ESPN	English Premier Football League 2004/05				MLB World Series 2004 Game #3							Sportscenter Taiwan	MLB World Series 2004 Game #3						
Disney Channel	Kim Possible	Totally Spies	Lizzie Mcguire	Even Stevens	That's So Raven	Martin Mystery	Totally Spies	The Legend Of Tarzan	Lilo & Stitch/Untalkative Bunny	Mickey Mouse and Friends	Wonderful World Of Disney			My Wife And Kids	That's So Raven	Even Stevens	America's Funniest Home Video	Wonderful World Of Disney	
Cinemax				Incident At Deception Ridge			Weapons Of Mass Distraction				Octane			Field Of Dreams			Collateral Damage		
Hallmark Channel	Mad About You	Out Of Order				Play With Me Sesame	Sesame Street		Bewitched	Family Law		Mysterious Ways		A Painted House			Strong Medicine (10:35PM)		Family Law (11:25PM)
Discovery Channel		Science Mysteries		Science Frontiers		Wild Discovery		Ultimate Discovery		Xtreme Martial Arts				Wild Discovery		Ultimate Discovery		Hour Asia	
MTV Philippines		MTV Diyos		Non-Stop Hits		Non-Stop Hits		MTV Get Spotted	MTV Loveline	MTV Supahstar		MTV Rock'd	Molo: Sum 41 Makes A Video	TRL		Room Raiders	One Bad Trip	VH1 Hits/ Video Collection	
EWTN	Saints: A Closer Look	The Chaplet Of Divine Mercy	Fr. Groeschel: Mountains And Valleys	Faith Factory	Children's Devotional Rotation	Rosary With Mother Angelica	EWTN Gallery	Mother Angelica Live Classics		One In Their Hearts	Defending Life	Daily Mass		Angelus (9:15 PM)	EWTN Catholic Classic	The Lamb's Supper	The Carpenter's Shop	Our Father's Plan	

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Gov't drops gross income tax proposal

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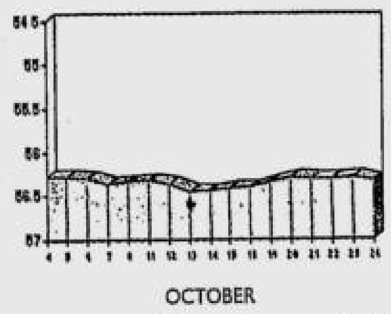


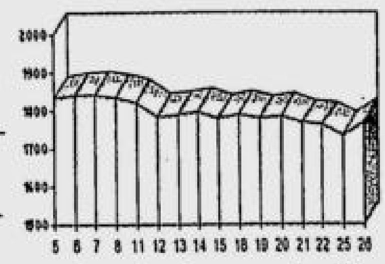
P 56.34 = $1
As of 5 p.m., Oct. 26, 2004

¥ 106.88 = $1
As of 5 p.m., Oct. 26, 2004

GOLD: $426.60-427.10
per ounce Hong Kong, Oct. 26, 2004

STOCK MARKET

Shares up 1.91%



(See stock market report on Page B4)

SHARES closed nearly 2 percent higher yesterday as telecoms leader PLDT led a late rebound on expectations of higher third-quarter earnings after the market fell to a one-month low on Monday amid rising inflation fears.

The main stock index rose 33.09 points, or 1.91 percent, to 1,768.78 points. The index has risen 22.6 percent so far this year.

Turnover was a hefty P1.84 billion, more than double Monday's P731.75 million.

Traders said there was a cross sale of 60 million Banco de Oro Universal Bank shares at P18 each, for a total of P1.08 billion.

"People are positioning on stocks, like telecom companies, that are expected to report high earnings in the third quarter," said Roberto Cano, analyst at BPI Securities.

Philippine Long Distance Telephone Co., the country's dominant phone firm, gained 1.49 percent to P1,360. Number two player Globe Telecom Inc. added 4.57 percent to P1,030, while third-ranked Digital Telecommunications Philippines Inc. jumped 6.56 percent to P1.30.

Globe is due to announce quarterly results on Thursday. PLDT, the nation's biggest listed company valued at $4.25 billion, reports a week later.

Three brokerages polled by Reuters forecast PLDT's July-September profits in a range of P5.2-P6 billion, up from P4.01 billion last year.

Globe, which did not launch any new mobile services during the period, is expected to post third-quarter profits of P3-P3.6 billion against P3.2 billion a year earlier.

Ayala Land Inc., the Philippines' largest property firm, gained 1.45 percent to P7 ahead of its third-quarter earnings on Thursday, when it is expected to announce an 8-10 percent rise in net profit from P604 million.

Its parent, Ayala Corp., rose 3.23 percent to P6.40, while the group's banking arm, Bank of the Philippines Islands, gained 1.09 percent to P46.50.

In the broader market, gainers outpaced losers two to one.

Traders said the market would take direction from earnings reports during the rest of the week.

Reuters

By Michelle V. Remo

THE DEPARTMENT of Finance has modified the unpopular proposal of a gross income system of taxation and is now pushing for a uniform 28-percent income tax rate both on corporate taxpayers and self-employed individuals, hoping it would be more acceptable to the private sector and the legislature.

In a speech during the 5th Business Outlook Conference yesterday, Finance Secretary Juanita Amatong said the DOF, together with other members of the government's economic team, would be lobbying for the so-called "simplified net income tax system," or SNITS, in exchange for the earlier proposal of a gross income tax.

Currently, corporate taxpayers are slapped a uniform 32-percent income tax rate, while self-employed individuals are imposed a graduated income tax rate, with 32 percent as the maximum, depending on the amount of their income.

Under the new DOF proposal, corporate taxpayers will be imposed a lower income tax rate. As a safeguard, however, the government will be the one to specify the allowable deductions from a company's gross income, and the resulting amount is where the 28-percent income tax shall be based.

For self-employed individuals, the DOF is proposing to cap the allowable deductions at 40 percent of one's gross income. This means that the deductions allowed of a self-employed individual should not exceed 40 percent of his or her gross income. The resulting amount will be the basis of computing the 28-percent income tax.

"This proposal will enhance the revenue potential of the income tax," Amatong said.

The DOF has come up with the new proposal on revolutionizing the current income tax system amid negative comments on the earlier proposal of shifting to a gross income tax system, which was endorsed by no less than President Macapagal-Arroyo.

At the same time, Amatong said the DOF was also pushing for a 7-percent franchise tax on telecommunication companies, and television and radio broadcasting companies. Should the proposal be adopted, the franchise tax will replace the value-added tax currently imposed on these companies.

The DOF said the government stood to collect higher revenue with the franchise tax than with VAT, which provides an input-output tax mechanism. The input-output tax mechanism of the VAT means that a taxpayer is allowed to deduct the VAT it paid for the purchase of goods or services from the amount of its VAT liabilities.

The franchise tax and the SNITS are part of the eight revenue-enhancement measures proposed by the Arróyo administration. The other measures include the increase in the VAT rate, increase in the excise tax on petroleum products, rationalization of fiscal incentives, a lateral attrition program, indexation of sin taxes to inflation, and a tax amnesty. The measures are expected to rake in an additional P80 billion in annual revenue.

Tighter money policy seen early next year

By Doris C. Dumlao

THE BANGKO Sentral ng Pilipinas is expected to tighten monetary policy in the first half of 2005.

Such a move is seen to jack up the average interest rate, based on the benchmark 91-day treasury bill, to 8.3 percent.

This was based on an economic outlook briefing yesterday by Bank of the Philippine Islands, which also projected a lower economic growth and higher inflation for next year.

"We're looking at a high interest rate environment," said BPI asset manager Herbert Arabelo.

He said BPI was forecasting the bellwether treasury bill rate to average higher next year from a projected average of 7.3 percent this year.

"This is due to BSP's intervention in the first semester," Arabelo said.

An intervention can be in the form of higher overnight policy rates or an increase in the reserve requirement on banks.

During its latest monetary policy setting, the BSP's policy-making Monetary Board voted to maintain key policy rates unchanged at the same levels since July last year as threats to in-

TIGHTER/B4

CEBU-MACTAN INTERCONNECTION
President Macapagal-Arroyo prepares to lay down the time capsule marking the site of the P2-billion interconnection project of the National Transmission Corp. (Transco) that will link the industrial zones of Mactan Island with the power generation facilities of Cebu. The project is expected to boost the export manufacturing sector of the Central Visayas region. Assisting the President are, from left, Jules Alcantara, Transco vice president for Visayas-Mindanao, and Dr. Alan Ortiz, Transco president.

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Spain eyes RP as gateway to presence in Asia

By Ronnel W. Domingo

SPANISH companies, with help from their government, yesterday opened a three-day trade show at the Hotel Intercontinental as Spain eyed the Philippines as a gateway in establishing a greater presence in Asia.

Dubbed España Exporta 2004, the exhibit features some 25 wine and gourmet, personal care, and infrastructure engineering companies as well as small- and medium-scale enterprises.

Jose Miguel Cortes, an economic and commercial counselor at the Embassy of Spain here in Manila, said during the opening rites held yesterday the trade mission was looking at potential business partnerships with local firms especially on road and highway projects.

"We have one firm that is among those in preliminary talks with the proponents of the South Luzon Expressway [upgrade and extension]," Cortes said.

The Department of Trade and Industry is pushing for the repair of the Alabang viaduct and the 8-kilometer link between the South Luzon Expressway and the Southern Tagalog Arterial Road. The viaduct repair would cost about P2.8 billion while the Slex-Star connection would cost at least P1.8 billion.

Cortes said the firm, which he declined to name, wanted to engage in the engineering and design and construction of the project as well as a possible outlay for a build-operate-transfer equity.

"We are investigating some BOT opportunities in road, water and waste management," Cortes added. "We have started or are set to start serious discussions with the national and provincial administrations."

He said Spanish investors control 45 percent of all BOT contracts worldwide but none so far in the Philippines.

Cortes said total trade between Spain and the Philippines reached an all time high in 2003.

According to Trade Secretary Cesar V. Purisima, whose speech was read by Undersecretary Zorayda Amelia Alonzo, Spain was the country's 29th trading partner accounting for 0.29 percent or $210 million of total $74-billion Philippine trade with the world.

Local firm invests ₱142M in outsourcing venture

AN ALL-FILIPINO firm is investing P142 million to put up an outsourcing application development project that would cater to clients in North America, Japan and Europe, according to the Department of Trade and Industry.

Pointwest Technologies Corp. will offer application development services through combinations of onsite, offsite and offshore project management and development activities.

The firm's portfolio covers software development and code enhancements. Pointwest services are designed to rapidly improve the efficiency and effectiveness of its clients' operations.

The company's project started commercial operations earlier this month at the Citibank Corporate Center and would employ 478 information technology professionals.

Trade Undersecretary Elmer C. Hernandez said the local IT industry has grown dramatically over the past 30 years.

"From $10 million in export revenue in 1989, the industry now exports approximately $1 billion in IT services and has generated some 290,000 skilled professionals," Hernandez said.

He added that the country has five operational cyberparks and 1,739 registered IT firms all over the country.

In a related development, the DTI said vital infrastructure was being laid down in Cagayan de Oro in the city's bid to become the next IT hub in Mindanao.

According to the Regional Development Council 10, Cagayan de Oro was setting in place business parks that would accommodate IT firms such as the Pueblo de Oro Business Park.

RCD 10 said the Philippine Economic Zone Authority had in principle approved Pueblo de Oro as an IT zone. The necessary documents needed are completed and Pueblo is awaiting proclamation from Malacañang. *Ronnel W. Domingo*

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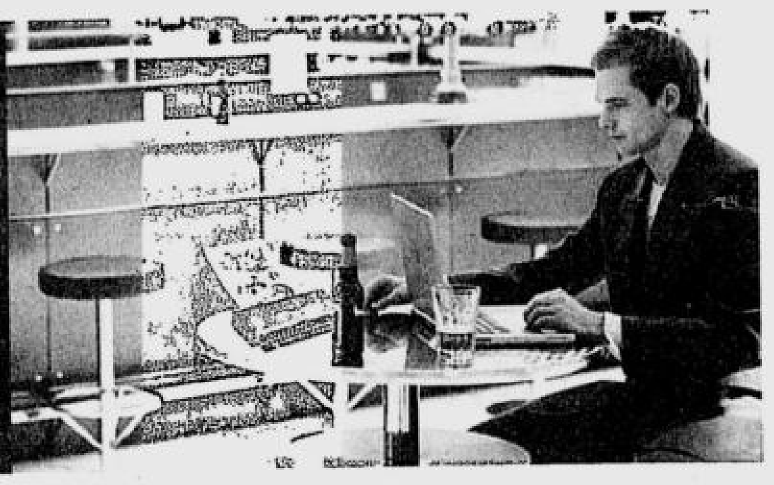

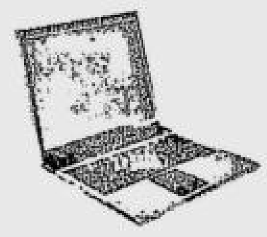

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Angara loses farm appeal

COCKTALES

Victor C. Agustin

SEN. EDGARDO Angara has no choice but to slug it out in the Nasugbu Regional Trial Court over the ownership issue of his 6.75-hectare farm in Hacienda Balaytigue, which is also claimed by Fedman Development Corp. of the Bernasconi family.

The Supreme Court has just rejected a petition for a certiorari review filed by Angara, who had wanted the Nasugbu RTC to render a judgment based on a commissioners' survey report on the questioned area as well as to implead adjoining property owners.

"The Rules of Court clearly provides that the trial court is not bound by the finding of the commissioners or precluded from disregarding the same," ponente Justice Maria Alicia Austria-Martinez said.

"It may adopt, modify, reject the report or recommit it with instructions, or require parties to present further evidence," she said.

Two other justices, Leonardo Quisumbing and Romeo Callejo, concurred, upholding a previous Court of Appeals' decision that had denied Angara's certiorari motion.

The suit stemmed from a 1996 action filed by Fedman for quieting of title, claiming Angara had fenced off the wrong property for his weekend farm.

The Batangas court set aside the commissioners' report since the survey had had been conducted individually by three court-approved geodetic engineers, instead of the survey having been jointly conducted by the three.

The court case was nearly thrown out during the Erap years, after Fedman failed to prosecute and move the case past the pre-trial stage.

Philrealty plots turnaround

PHILREALTY, which has daily been bumping the 50-percent rise ceiling since the stock began trading again last week, plans to build a Megaworld-style condominium in its Fort property instead of its original plan with bigger, Alexandra-sized units.

Now being used as a parking lot in front of the UCC coffee shop, the property offers a better promontory point to the Manila Golf fairway than the Pacific Plaza Towers.

According to the grapevine, Philrealty principal Gerardo Lanuza has successfully rounded up a group of investors, including fellow iBank director Enrique Razon Jr., to provide fresh funding for the Fort project.

The projected profits from the Fort project will then be used by Philrealty to finish its Andrea condo complex in what used to be the Pepsi compound in Quezon City's Balete Drive.

No Toda toady

EDSA II lawyer Mario Luza Bautista sought to distance himself from the P80-million tax evasion setback handed by the Supreme Court on the estate of former PAL owner Benigno Toda.

Bautista said that he was appointed co-administrator of the Toda estate in July 1994, after the businessman died in January 1994, and that he resigned the po-

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3 months	2.750%	2.875%	3.000%	3.125%	3.250%
6 months	2.875%	3.000%	3.125%	3.250%	3.375%
12 months	3.000%	3.125%	3.250%	3.375%	3.500%

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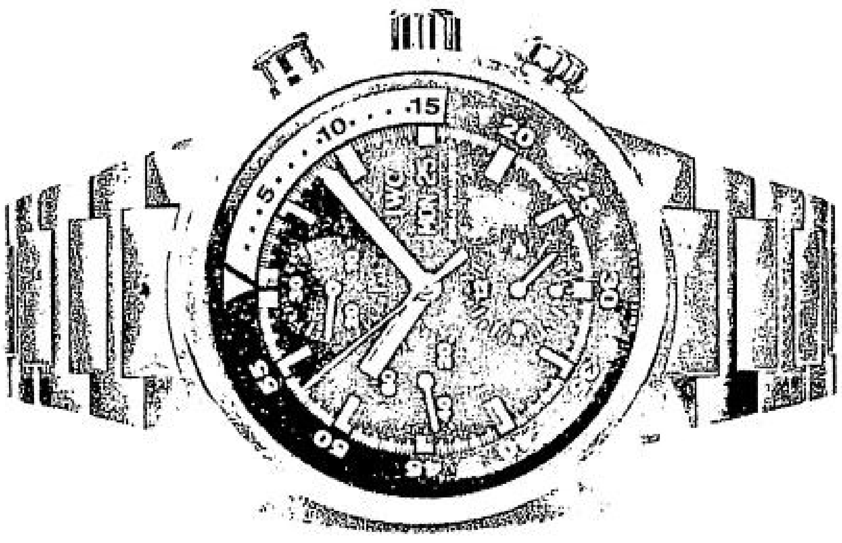

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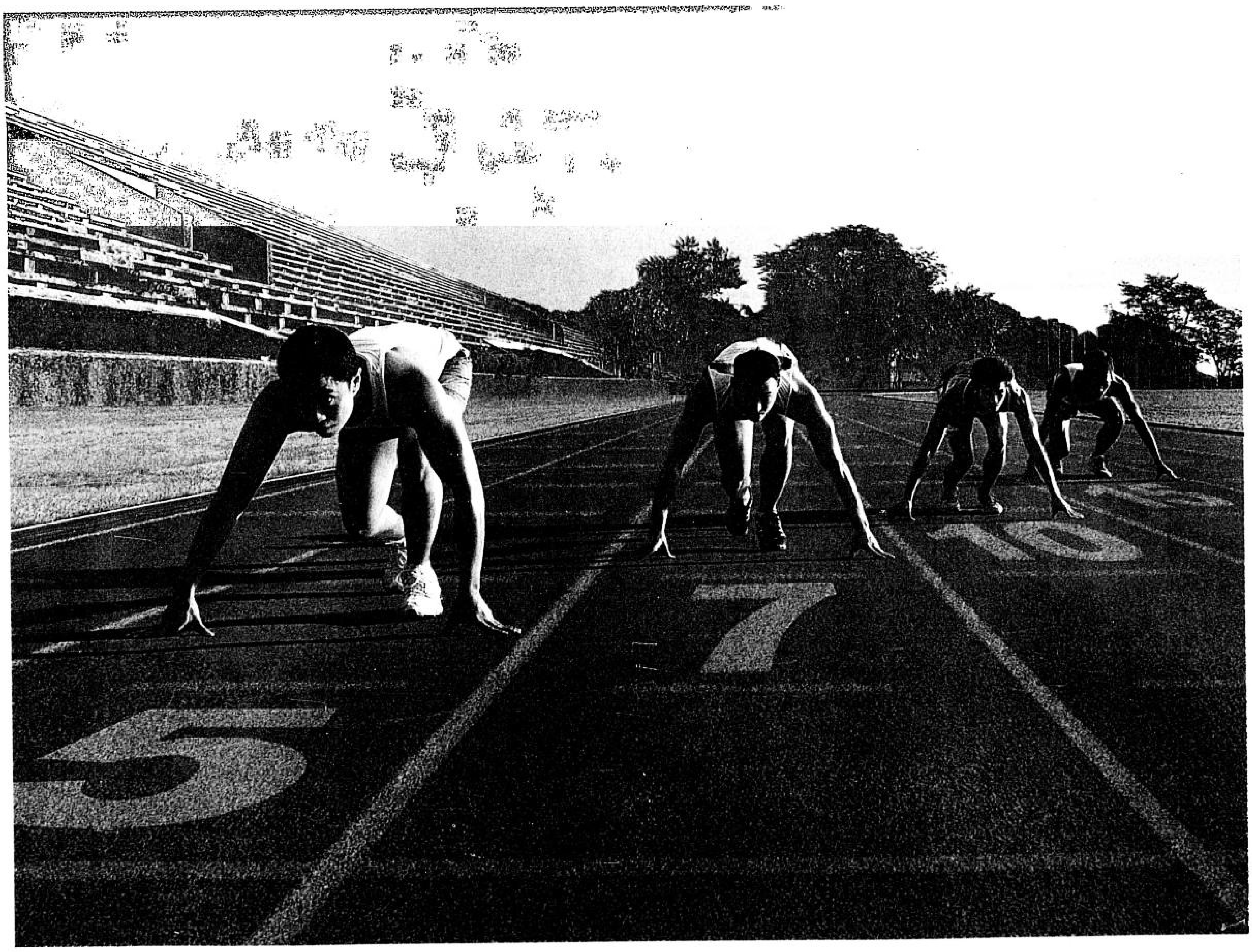

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PHILIPPINE STOCK EXCHANGE

(As of October 26, 2004)

STOCKS	OPEN	HIGH	LOW	CLOSE	VOLUME
BANKS & FINANCIAL SERVICES					
BANKS					
Asiatrust Dev. Bank Inc.	2.9	2.9	2.9	2.9	71,000
Banco de Oro Univ. Bank	18.25	18.5	18	18.25	60,118,000
Bank of the Phil. Islands	46	46.5	46	46.5	2,579,100
China Banking Corp.	525	525	525	525	1,000
Equitable PCI Bank Inc.	42.5	43.5	42.5	43.5	85,900
Export and Ind. Bank Inc.	0.42	0.42	0.41	0.41	600,000
Metropolitan Bank & Trust	27.5	28	27.5	28	301,800
Prudential Bank	350	350	350	350	500
Philippine National Bank	22.25	22.25	21.75	22	34,700
Security Bank Corp.	20.25	20.5	20.25	20.25	408,800
Union Bank of the Phil.	22.75	22.75	22.75	22.75	4,000
FINANCIAL SERVICES					
First Metro Invest. Corp.	178	178	178	178	190
Manulife Financial Corp.	2405	2410	2405	2410	100
Sun Life Financial Inc.	1645	1650	1645	1650	3,130
COMMERCIAL & INDUSTRIAL					
COMMUNICATION					
ABS-CBN Broadcasting Corp.	21	21	20.75	20.75	26,400
Digital Telecom Phils Inc.	1.24	1.36	1.22	1.3	48,351,000
Globe Telecom Inc.	995	1035	995	1030	40,950
Ipeople Inc.	1.66	1.68	1.66	1.68	145,000
Island Info and Tech Inc.	0.043	0.043	0.043	0.043	1,500,000
ISM Communications Corp.	0.035	0.035	0.035	0.035	2,000,000
Liberty Telecoms Holdings	0.4	0.4	0.4	0.4	60,000
Pilipino Tel. Corp.	2.32	2.5	2.3	2.5	8,808,000
Transpacific Broadcast	1.4	1.4	1.4	1.4	50,000
Phil. Long Dis Tel Co.	1345	1370	1345	1360	92,990
Ivantage Corp.	0.7	0.71	0.7	0.71	430,000
Philweb Corp.	0.013	0.013	0.012	0.013	63,900,000
POWER & ENERGY					
Manila Electric Co. A	15.5	15.5	15.25	15.5	29,100
Manila Electric Co. B	23.25	23.5	23.25	23.5	194,100
Petron Corp.	2.9	3.05	2.9	3	5,520,000
Salcon Power Corp.	2.1	2.1	2.1	2.1	23,000
Trans-Asia Oil and Energy	1.08	1.08	1.08	1.08	10,000
TRANSPORTATION SERVICES					
Aboitiz Trans. Sys. Corp.	1.72	1.72	1.72	1.72	3,000
Int'l Container Term'l Sv	5	5.1	4.95	5	895,000
CONSTRUCTION & OTHER RELATED PRODUCTS					
Engineering Equip. Inc.	0.36	0.36	0.36	0.36	30,000
Union Cement Corp.	2.24	2.36	2.22	2.28	5,532,000
FOOD, BEVERAGES & TOBACCO					
Alaska Milk Corp.	2.95	2.95	2.95	2.95	10,000
Ginebra San Miguel Inc.	29	29	29	29	63,800
Jollibee Foods Corp.	28	28.5	28	28.5	484,100
Swift Food Inc.	0.35	0.35	0.35	0.35	10,000
San Miguel Corp. A	56	56.5	56	56	146,000
San Miguel Corp. B	70.5	70.5	70	70.5	621,300
Universal Robina Corp.	10	10	10	10	44,000
Vitarich Corp.	0.29	0.31	0.29	0.29	1,470,000
HOLDING FIRMS					
Ayala Corp.	6.1	6.4	6.1	6.4	7,984,000
Aboitiz Equity Ventures	3.4	3.45	3.4	3.45	2,373,000
A. Soriano Corp.	1.36	1.4	1.36	1.4	582,000
APC Group Inc.	0.065	0.065	0.065	0.065	100,000
Bacnotan Cons Indus Inc.	15.25	15.25	15.25	15.25	17,700
Benpres Holdings Corp.	0.55	0.56	0.55	0.55	5,810,000
Basic Consolidated Inc.	0.145	0.145	0.145	0.145	160,000
Crown Equities Inc.	0.22	0.23	0.22	0.23	400,000
DMCI Holdings Inc.	2.9	3.25	2.9	3.25	17,110,000
Ever-Gotesco Resources	0.03	0.03	0.03	0.03	16,800,000
Fil-Estate Corp.	0.4	0.4	0.4	0.4	70,000
Fil-Hispano Holdings Corp.	4.15	4.6	4.15	4.55	262,000
First Phil Hldgs Corp.	26	26.5	26	26.5	438,900
Global Equities Inc.	0.065	0.065	0.065	0.065	1,900,000
Ionics Inc.	1.6	1.6	1.6	1.6	145,000
J.G. Summit Holdings Inc.	1.98	2.02	1.98	2	265,000
Macroasia Corp.	1.38	1.4	1.38	1.4	11,000
Megaworld Corp.	1.24	1.26	1.24	1.24	1,993,000
Metro Pacific Corp.	0.39	0.41	0.39	0.41	55,770,000
East Asia Power Res. Corp.	0.135	0.135	0.135	0.135	100,000
Solid Group Inc.	0.38	0.39	0.38	0.39	250,000
Waterfront Phils. Inc.	0.21	0.21	0.21	0.21	350,000
MANUFACTURING, DISTRIBUTION & TRADING					
Corro-Coat Inc.	1.14	1.14	1.14	1.14	5,000
Music Semiconductors Corp.	1.62	1.62	1.6	1.6	206,000
HOTEL, RECREATION & OTHER SERVICES					
Bella Corp.	0.63	0.64	0.63	0.64	1,660,000
Fairmont Holdings Inc.	0.8	0.81	0.79	0.79	150,000
Leisure & Resorts Corp.	0.6	0.6	0.6	0.6	270,000
Premiere Ent. Prod. Inc.	0.29	0.29	0.29	0.29	150,000
BONDS, PREFERRED & WARRANTS					
ABS-CBN HLDGS. Corp. (Pdr)	20.75	21	20.75	21	192,600
PLDT (10% Pref) Series R	10	10	10	10	1,400
PLDT (10% Pref) Series T	10.5	10.5	10.5	10.5	1,200
OTHERS					
Centro Escolar University	6.8	6.8	6.8	6.8	10,000
PROPERTY					
Ayala Land Inc.	6.9	7	6.9	7	4,142,000
Cityland Development Corp.	1.5	1.5	1.5	1.5	60,000
C & P Homes Inc.	0.33	0.35	0.33	0.34	8,880,000
Cyber Bay Corp.	0.14	0.14	0.14	0.14	100,000
EIB Realty Developers Inc.	0.13	0.13	0.13	0.13	30,000
Empire East Land Inc.	0.34	0.36	0.34	0.35	14,060,000
Filinvest Land Inc.	1.08	1.1	1.08	1.1	5,570,000
Fil-Estate Land Inc.	0.49	0.5	0.49	0.5	1,160,000
Robinsons Land Corp.	2.08	2.08	2.08	2.08	50,000
Phil Realty And Holdings	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	400,000
SM Development Corp.	1	1	1	1	340,000
SM Prime Holdings Inc.	7.2	7.4	7.2	7.4	4,154,000
MINING					
Apex Mining Co. Inc. A	0.26	0.27	0.26	0.27	190,000
Abra Mining & Industrial	0.0065	0.009	0.0065	0.0085	715,000,000
Atlas Cons. Min & Dev't	3.6	3.85	3.6	3.6	545,000
Lepanto Cons Mng. Co. A	0.215	0.215	0.215	0.215	100,000
Manila Mining Corp. A	0.016	0.017	0.016	0.016	135,700,000
Manila Mining Corp. B	0.019	0.02	0.019	0.02	12,100,000
Omico Corp.	0.0046	0.005	0.0046	0.0048	292,000,000
Polar Mines & Dev't Corp.	0.025	0.026	0.025	0.026	3,800,000
Philex Mining Corp. A	0.43	0.43	0.43	0.43	20,000
Philex Mining Corp. B	0.51	0.51	0.49	0.49	1,300,000
OIL					
Imperial Res.	0.012	0.013	0.012	0.013	1,100,000
Pacifica	0.011	0.011	0.011	0.011	18,000,000
Vulcan Ind'l	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2	10,000

	SHARES	VALUE(P)
Bank & Fin Svc	64,208,220	1,229,277,445.00
Comm'l & Ind'l	256,027,540	524,342,380.00
PRO	38,946,000	74,334,500.00
Mining	1,160,755,000	12,376,550.00
OIL	19,110,000	214,200.00
GRAND TOTALS :	1,539,046,760	1,840,545,075.00

AVERAGES		
Bank & Fin Svc	496.68	UP 3.84
Comm'l & Ind'l	2,773.48	UP 55.77
PRO	661.35	UP 15.38
Mining	2,009.70	UP 25.37
OIL	1.68	UNCH 0.00
SME	100.00	UNCH 0.00
All Shares Index	1,097.38	DOWN 4.81
Composite	1,768.76	UP 33.09

NO. OF ADVANCES: 48; NO. OF DECLINES: 24; NO. OF UNCHANGED: 28; NO. OF TRADED ISSUES: 100 NO. OF TRADES: 3,017

CURRENCIES

October 26, 2004 Country	Unit	Euro Equivalent	Dollar Equivalent	Peso Equivalent
United States	Dollar	0.780640	1.000000	56.2790
Japan	Yen	0.007308	0.009361	0.5268
United Kingdom	Pound	1.437315	1.841200	103.6209
Hong Kong	Dollar	0.100399	0.128611	7.2381
Switzerland	Franc	0.652982	0.836470	47.0757
Canada	Dollar	0.639659	0.819403	46.1152
Singapore	Dollar	0.469501	0.601431	33.8479
Australia	Dollar	0.582828	0.746603	42.0181
Bahrain	Dinar*	2.070718	2.652590	149.2851
Saudi Arabia	Rial	0.208165	0.266660	15.0074
Brunei	Dollar	0.468094	0.599628	33.7465
Indonesia	Rupiah	0.000086	0.000110	0.0062
Thailand	Baht	0.019013	0.024356	1.3707
UAE	Dirham	0.212540	0.272264	15.3227
Euro	Euro	1.000000	1.281000	72.0934
Argentina	Peso	0.263285	0.337268	18.9811
Brazil	Real	0.271244	0.347464	19.5549
Denmark	Kroner	0.134500	0.172295	9.6966
India	Rupee	0.017116	0.021925	1.2339
Malaysia	Ringgit	0.205459	0.263193	14.8122
Mexico	New Peso	0.067711	0.086738	4.8815
New Zealand	Dollar	0.547703	0.701607	39.4857
Norway	Kroner	0.121423	0.155543	8.7538
Pakistan	Rupee	0.012984	0.016633	0.9361
South Africa	Rand	0.125657	0.160966	9.0590
Korea	Won	0.000689	0.000882	0.0496
Sweden	Kroner	0.110268	0.141253	7.9496
Syria	Pound	0.015047	0.019275	1.0848
Taiwan	Nt Dollar	0.023137	0.029638	1.6680
Venezuela	Bolivar	0.000407	0.000522	0.0294

Tighter . . .

From page B1

flation and the foreign exchange rate were still seen as manageable.

But while the BSP has successfully avoided rate increases this year, monetary authorities said they would not hesitate to tighten the rates to counter inflationary pressures in the future.

To date, the BSP's overnight borrowing or reverse repurchase rate was kept at 6.75 percent and the overnight lending or repurchase rate at 9 percent.

As of last Monday's auction, the 91-day treasury bill rate—used by banks as the reference for pricing their loans—averaged at 7.869 percent, bringing the year-to-date rate at 7.19 percent.

By next year, Arabelo said there would be an uptrend in interest rates "due to fiscal concerns and rising global interest rates" although this would be mitigated by market liquidity.

He said the inflation rate would also likely surge due to the impact of skyrocketing oil prices, which were now hitting record highs since the Gulf War.

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DISCLOSURES

EVER Gotesco Resources and Holdings Inc. will hold its annual stockholders' meeting on Dec. 10 at the Penthouse II, Ever Gotesco Corporate Center, 1958 C.M. Recto Ave., Manila at 3 p.m.

* * *

MUSIC Semiconductors Inc. elected Patrick Go and Marie Therese Santos as directors, and Donn Lee as corporate secretary.

* * *

ASIATRUST Development Bank Inc. will hold its annual stockholders' meeting on Nov. 19 in the Bahia Room, Skytop on the 14th floor of Hotel Intercontinental Manila, Ayala Avenue, Makati City at 2 p.m. ***Compiled by D.J. Yap, PDI Research***

Cocktales

From page B3

sition in October 1996.

"He was not my 'principal' as, in fact, I never even met him," Bautista wrote. He did not say who among the Toda heirs nominated him before the Makati Regional Trial Court to be named as co-administrator along with lawyer Lorna Kapunan.

"I did not participate in the BIR tax cases, other than as a nominal party, in my capacity as the Toda estate special co-administrator," he said.

Another Bitanga

IT WAS not Mateo Bitanga, but a certain Don Bitanga, that stockbroker Vivian Yuchengco referred to in Monday's column, for having been disqualified, for lack of residency, from seeking to contest what should have been the uncontested reelection bid of Makati Rep. Teodoro Locsin Jr. in the last elections.

Yuchengco said she does not know and has not even met Mateo Bitanga or his son Anthony, who until yesterday the family of golf columnist Arsenic Laurel were trying to evict from their Corinthian Gardens home for not paying rent for several months.

Heard through the grapevine

THE SUPREME Court has reduced the combined damages to be collected by Makati Mayor Jejomar Binay from former Makati Councilor Roberto Brillante on four counts of libel from P1 million to P500,000.

The jail term, a minimum of four months imprisonment for each count, stays.

The conviction stemmed from a published open letter and a press conference in 1988 where Brillante accused Binay, then Makati officer-in-charge, of plotting to assassinate then mayoral candidate Augusto Syjuco.

(Email: cocktales_pdi@yahoo.com or cocktales_pdi@hotmail.com)

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9:15 - 10:00 Opening of Business Opportunity Fair and the MarketPlace
Sec. Estrella F. Alabastro Department of Science and Technology (DOST)
Usec. Thomas G. Aquino Department of Trade and Industry (DTI)
10:00 - 10:15 Opening Ceremony
10:15 - 10:50 KEYNOTE SPEECH -
Business Partnering: Towards a Sustainable Future
Keynote Address ....Secretary Luis P. Lorenzo, Presidential Adviser on Job Creation, Chairman, Land Bank of the Philippines
10:50 - 11:40 KEYNOTE SPEAKERS – First Plenary
"Developing Successful Partnership in the Local Market"
Agri-business....Secretary Arthur C. Yap, Department of Agriculture (DA)
Tourism ....Secretary Joseph Ace Durano, Department of Tourism (DOT)
Trade....Mr. Dave Morin, President, Goodyear Philippines
11:40 - 12:25 KEYNOTE SPEAKERS – Second Plenary
"Developing Successful Partnership in the International Market"
Agri-marketing....Mr. Adirak Screecunpag, Secretary General, Agricultural Land reform Office, Bangkok Thailand
Tourism ....Datuk Dr. Victor Wee Eng Lye, Secretary General, Ministry of Tourism, Malaysia
Trade....Mr. Ricky Manuel, President/Founder, Green Mango Trading, USA
12:50 - 1:50 AWARDING CEREMONY:
1st Business Excellence Awards for SMEs
(with separate program)
2:00 - 3:00 THIRD PLENARY – Developing Partnership for e-business
Offshore Outsourcing & Web Marketing....Mr. George Kintanar, Program Advisor, Strategic Information Management Program, Ateneo Graduate School of Business
Call Center....Mr Rudy Ngaw, CEO, Touch Asia Contact
Medical Transcription....Dr. Angelica Abella, CEO Intelliscribe
Animation....Ms. Marilyn Montano, President, Animation Council of the Philippines
Accounting Software....Mr. Royce Reyes, Managing Director, Balmori Software, Inc.
3:00 - 3:20 Medical Services:
Fastest Growing Small Business per Fortune Magazine Small Business 100
Speaker....Dr. Bu C. Castro, President, Philippine Medical Association
3:35 - 3:55 Science Development and Technology Discoveries Unlimited
Speaker....Mr. Pelagio Baltung Jr., Vice President, Power and Telephone Supply Philippines
3:55 - 4:15 The Role of Continuing Education in Business Partnering
Speaker....Mr. Jim Oms, Speaker for Conformation
4:15 - 4:35 BUSINESS SHOWCASE
Maximizing Profitability through Business Partnering
Speaker....Mr. Joey Gurango, Founder and CEO, Webworks O.S.
4:35 - 5:30 LAUNCHING OF THE PHILSMED MARKETING WEBSITE
Messages....Dr. Mina T. Gabor, President, PHILSMED
Mr. Gil B. Genio, CEO, Innove Communications, Inc. (Host)
Ceremonial Opening of www.themarketplace.com.ph
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SBC sells ₱100M worth of idle assets

By Elizabeth L. Sanchez

TWO commercial banks are making significant progress in disposing their idle assets through auctions.

Publicly-listed Security Bank Corp. sold 40 foreclosed assets worth more than P100 million in two auctions this year. SBC appointed CB Richard Ellis as auction manager.

Security Bank had some P3.015 billion worth of idle assets as of June.

CB Richard Ellis Philippines director Jojo Salas also said Metropolitan Bank and Trust Co. (Metrobank) would hold a public auction for 150 assets on Thursday at the Philippine AXA Tower in Makati.

Metrobank has a total of P2.32 billion in idle properties as of June representing 8 percent of its total assets.

Supporting the banking industry's efforts to clean up their books, the Securities and Exchange (SEC) recently said it had approved 36 applications from companies that proposed to help banks and other financial entities dispose of their idle assets consisting of bad loans and foreclosed properties.

Among the SPVs registered with the SEC, Unimark Investments Corp. led by Filipino-Chinese businessman Robin Sy had the biggest capital at P2 billion against the minimum authorized capital of P500 million required for such companies.

RP seen to remain under IMF post-program monitoring

By Doris C. Dumlao

THE INTERNATIONAL Monetary Fund, which is sending a review mission to Manila next month, said it wanted to keep the Philippines under its post-program monitoring (PPM) arrangement in view of the country's fiscal woes.

At the sidelines of the 5th Annual Philippine Business Outlook conference yesterday, IMF country representative Vikram Haksar told reporters that a delegation from Washington would hold another round of consultations with Philippine economic managers on Nov. 4 to 17.

He said the government could choose to keep its PPM arrangement "for as long as the Philippines has outstanding borrowings from the IMF."

The PPM can be terminated when the outstanding loan with the IMF falls below a certain threshold or quota.

In the case of the Philippines, however, he said it was "helpful to have the PPM."

President Macapagal-Arroyo earlier declared that the government was in a fiscal crisis and urged Congress to pass key revenue-raising measures.

"I see no downside in keeping the PPM," Haksar stressed.

The PPM provides for frequent consultations between the Fund and its members whose arrangements have expired but who continue to have outstanding credit with the IMF. Particular focus is placed on policies that have a bearing on external viability.

The Philippines holds semi-annual PPM discussions with the IMF each year. During the last PPM discussions in July, the IMF's biggest concerns were the country's huge public sector deficits, the debt-ridden power sector and slow pace of bad asset disposal in the banking industry.

The country "graduated" from the IMF in 2001 but remains under its supervision. The government said a standby program with the IMF would be considered only as a last-ditch funding option.

Although the country was now a net depositor to the IMF instead of a net creditor, Bangko Sentral Governor Rafael Buenaventura believes the PPM is crucial in confirming the soundness of the government's economic program.

As of June 30, 2004, the Philippines has an outstanding debt with the IMF worth 629 special drawing rights (SDR) or 71.5 percent of its 100 percent quota.

Each SDR, the unit used by the IMF, is worth about $1.5.

MRT-7 group buys ₱1-B land in Bulacan

By Clarissa S. Batino

UNIVERSAL LRT Corp., the proponent of Metro Rail Transit 7 project, yesterday signed an agreement with The Manila Banking Corp. for the purchase of the latter's 193-hectare property in Bulacan for almost P1 billion.

Eli Levin, chief executive officer of Universal LRT said the consortium would develop the property and transform it into a $500-million real estate venture that would complement the $1.2-billion railway project.

The MRT-7 consortium plans to turn over 20 hectares of the property to the national government in phases to offset the $900-million, 15-year sovereign exposure to the integrated transport project.

Levin said the group was negotiating to buy 200 hectares more and out of that, 35 hectares could be given to the government.

The Bulacan property was owned by the family of Greggy Araneta but was foreclosed by Manila Bank. The bank surrendered the property to the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas as pyament for its loans.

Levin said Manila Bank repurchased the property from the central bank with the blessing of the Monetary Board.

Penta Capital signed the purchase agreement with Manila Bank in behalf of the consortium.

The MRT-7 consortium will pay the bank for the land over a five years with an annual interest of 6.5 percent.

"The purchase of the land shows the proponent's intent to make good its commitment to the government to create a buffer for its exposure and to provide an upside for the entire project," said Levin.

New rate-setting scheme for power distributors eyed

By Abigail L. Ho

THE ENERGY Regulatory Commission is finalizing the guidelines that will determine a power distributor's rate based on its performance.

The performance-based rate-setting (PBR) method uses incentives to motivate power distributors to reduce their costs and improve their operations.

This is expected to result in better electricity rates, a more efficient delivery of service to customers and the optimal use of a firm's assets.

The ERC said in a statement yesterday that this rate-setting scheme was a "win-win proposition for both investors and consumers" as the risks of doing business were also shared by the investors and consumers.

The other areas that have adopted the PBR scheme included Victoria in Australia, Ontario in Canada and the United Kingdom.

The PBR scheme is embedded in the distribution wheeling rates guidelines (DWRG) that the ERC is currently finalizing.

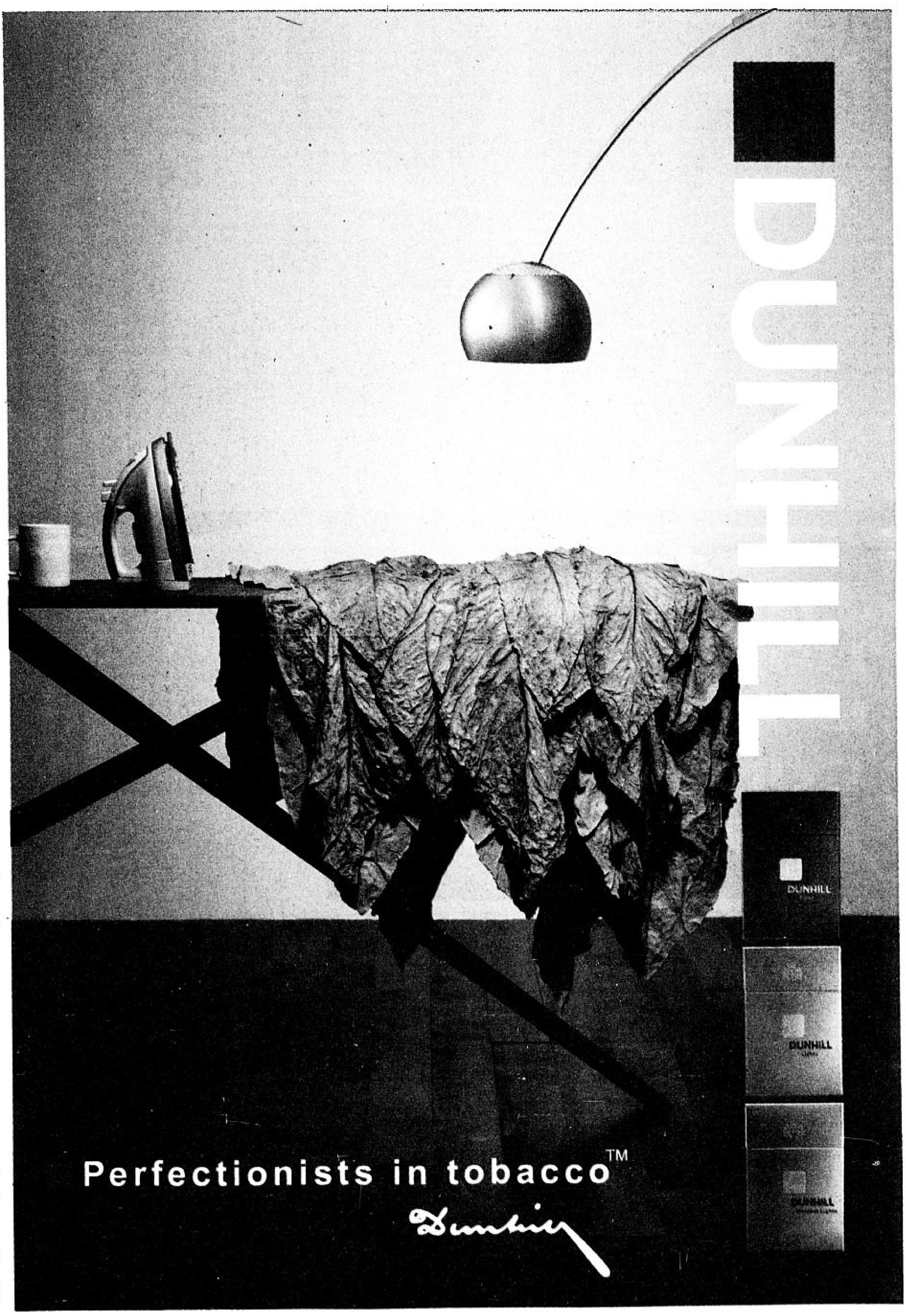
These guidelines will set the criteria in determining the maximum distribution wheeling rates that utilities will be allowed to charge on their customers.

"ERC initiated the formulation of a new rate-setting methodology in pursuit of an internationally accepted rate-setting scheme that will be more responsive in ensuring reasonable and non-discriminatory electricity rates and promote regulatory stability," ERC Commissioner Alejandro Barin said.

He said the regulatory body was encouraged by the fact that the power distributors seemed interested in shifting to the PBR scheme.

The ERC recently concluded the second and final public consultation for the draft DWRG. Distribution utilities Manila Electric Co., Davao Light and Power Co., Cagayan Electric Power and Light Co. Inc., Dagupan Electric Corp., Visyan Electric Co. Inc. and Cabanatuan Electric Corp. were present during the meeting.

The public consultation gave the stakeholders a chance to air their views for incorporation in the final guidelines. Most of the comments made during the final consultation focused on the financial and technical aspects of the guidelines.



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RP'S 'DARKEST REGION'

ARMM: Bottomless pit of NEA finances

By Jerry E. Esplanada

(Third of a series)

THE AUTONOMOUS Region in Muslim Mindanao (ARMM) remains a beaten patch of land lagging behind in the nation's rural electrification program.

Nearly 70 percent of the households and establishments in ARMM are still without power. Economic stagnation stalks the region.

In June, only 117,084 (33 percent) of 357,200 homes and other potential connections in the region had been energized, according to a National Electrification Administration report.

The NEA, an attached agency of the Department of Energy, expects to achieve 90 percent nationwide household electrification by 2017.

Power, courtesy of state-subsidized electric cooperatives, had reached only 65 percent of ARMM's 2,609 barangay units. Those already energized include so-called strongholds of Muslim separatist groups.

An oldtimer at the NEA referred to the ARMM as the country's "darkest region."

ARMM has the most number of "blackout areas"—villages where many local folk make do with homemade kerosene lamps, if not battery-operated ones to light up their nights.

Those places seemed frozen in time, said the NEA staffmember, who has traveled several times to Mindanao.

ARMM is also the "region with the lowest level of human development in the country," said the congressional and planning office of the House of Representatives.

In a 2003 report, the House body referred to the ARMM as "a gloomy picture of a region mired in high levels of poverty, low level of productivity and poor delivery of basic services."

The ARMM (population 2.8 million in a census taken in 2000) groups the provinces of Lanao del Sur, Maguindanao, Basilan, Sulu and Tawi-Tawi—destinations which, for obvious reasons, are not exactly at the top of everyone's travel list.

The region is rich in culture, but that did not prevent it from being battered by decades of armed conflicts and, in recent years, by sporadic eruptions of terrorist activities.

The same NEA report also revealed that in Southern Mindanao (North Cotabato, South Cotabato, Sultan Kudarat and Sarangani), only 54 percent of households has electricity.

In the same league are Central Mindanao (59 percent), Caraga (62 percent), Western Visayas (64 percent), Western Mindanao (65 percent), Eastern Visayas (66 percent), Central Visayas (68 percent), Mimaropa or Region 4-B (69 percent), and Bicol (71 percent).

Central Luzon, President Macapagal-Arroyo's home region, tops the NEA list with a high energization rate of 90 percent, that is 888,600 households in the provinces of Pampanga, Tarlac, Bulacan, Nueva Ecija, Bataan, Zambales and Aurora.

The 35-year-old program looks infinitely better in the following regions: Ilocos, 87 percent; Calabarzon, 86 percent; Cagayan Valley and Northern Mindanao, 82 percent; Cordillera Administrative Region, 81 percent; and Caraga, 79 percent.

When interviewed, NEA head Edith Bueno said the agency was not to blame for ARMM's powerless state.

"We're doing our part in the government's bigger program of reducing poverty in the region," she said, stressing that the NEA had not given up on the region.

The rural electrification program has become instrumental in improving the socioeconomic lives of Filipinos nationwide, she said.

But "history" has not always been on the NEA's side, according to Bueno.

"It's the peace and order problem," she pointed out. "Many years of armed conflicts have adversely affected our program in that region."

Take Lanao del Sur, for example. The NEA boss recalled how, during the 1980s, the program went full blast in the area.

"But what did some people there do?" Bueno asked. "They vented their rage on the power lines, bombing and destroying them. That prompted government to temporarily stop energizing the area. No investments were made. So it became powerless for at least 16 years. It was only in 2002 that we started putting up the power lines again."

The province's electric cooperative was also part of the problem, according to NEA documents furnished the INQUIRER.

In 2001, the Lanao del Sur Electric Cooperative or Lasureco was the country's worst performing electric cooperative. It placed 119th and last in the NEA scheme, which categorizes ECs according to their performance ratings—with A-plus being the highest. Those in categories C, D and E are considered financially distressed.

That year, Lasureco got an E-minus rating. In 2002, it moved two notches higher to 117th place, but it still received the same rating, like its counterparts in Basilan, Tawi-Tawi and Cagayan de Sulu.

In June, Lasureco had energized only 26 percent of over 114,000 homes in its coverage area despite state subsidies of more than P142.6 million, the biggest slice in the P441.2-million aid pie.

Lasureco's poor performance has prompted the NEA to deputize Napocor to run the cooperative.

Lasureco is not alone in its troubles. The other ARMM ECs also have yet to emerge from the wilderness.

Their electrification efforts were anything but impressive: Siasi, 21 percent of 10,100 homes; Sulu, 22 percent of 83,000; Cagayan de Sulu, 25 percent of 3,000; Basilan, 35 percent of 64,800; Tawi-Tawi, 43 percent of 19,200; and Maguindanao, 56 percent of 62,700.

Lasureco has obtained more than P145 million in loans, P48.1 million of which were condoned by the state under Republic Act No. 9136, or the "Electric Power Industry Reform Act of 2001."

According to Bueno, Lasureco's power bills averaged P14-16 million a month.

"But only P2 million was being paid to Napocor," she said.

Lasureco had also posted the lowest collection efficiency rate among all ECs.

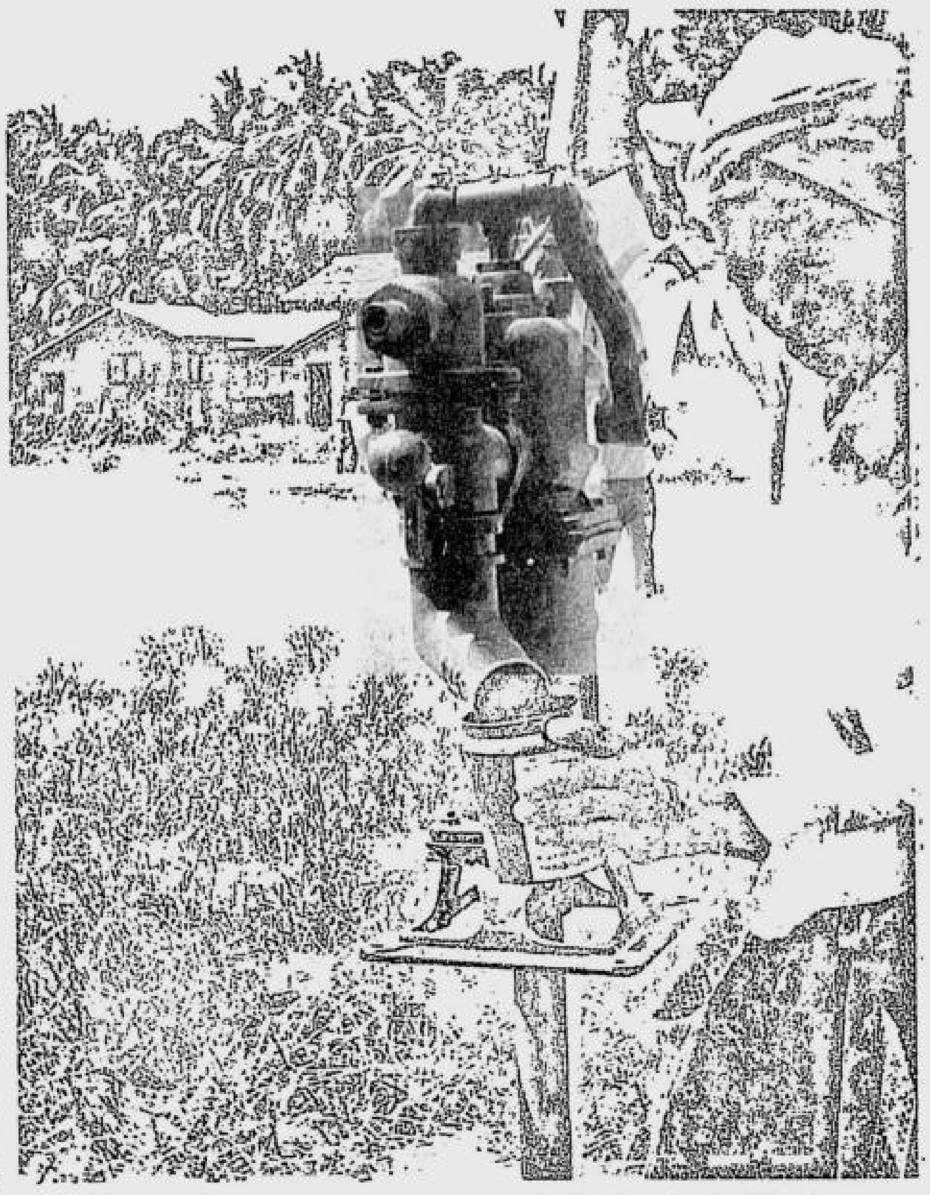
Bueno lamented that "many costumers simply refuse to pay their electric bills."

"In Lanao del Sur, (the residents there) argued that Lanao lake, the region's main power source, came from Allah," she said. "So why should they pay? If we cut off supply to non-paying customers, they'll say, *inaapi kami* (we're being persecuted). But they (the customers) should share the burden just like the others."

The cooperative in Lanao del Sur once owed Napocor some P1.5 billion—the biggest among the cooperatives.

"*Kung inapi yun, dapat noon pa pinutulan ng Napocor* (The cooperative had not been persecuted. Napocor would have cut off its supply to the cooperative long ago)."

Bueno called the ARMM the "bottomless pit" of NEA finances. *(To be continued.)*



AN ELDERLY woman draws water from a pump in the hinterlands of North Cotabato. According to the National Electrification Administration, electricity reaches a little more than half of all the households in North Cotabato. PDI FILE

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Oil prices dip to $54/barrel as winter fears persist

SINGAPORE—Oil prices slipped toward $54 a barrel on Tuesday, breathing easier after a Norwegian strike threat receded. But the markets are still anxious over the thin state of global pre-winter heating oil supplies.

US light crude for December was trading 48 cents lower at $54.06 a barrel in early European dealing. Brent crude in London traded down 38 cents at $50.40 a barrel.

Prices had surged to a new record $55.67 on Monday after a Norwegian shipowners' group threatened to shut down the country's output to resolve a deadlocked strike, but those gains unraveled after the government stepped in to end the dispute.

Norway produces nearly 3 million oil barrels per day (bpd) and ranks as the third-biggest exporter behind Saudi Arabia and Russia.

"The market is taking a breather here, but the medium- and longer-term has not changed," said Tony Nunan at Mitsubishi Corp. in Tokyo. "The fact is, we're heading into the winter with relatively low middle-distillate stocks in the US, and Opec is maxed out. I think we'll see $60 before we see $45."

The Organization of the Petroleum Exporting Countries (Opec) has been pumping at nearly full throttle since the summer to meet the biggest annual leap in demand for a generation.

But according to Opec president Purnomo Yusgiantoro, there is no supply shortage to worry about as global crude oil overproduction is now running at some 2.1 to 2.5 million barrels per day.

Yusgiantoro yesterday said that he had already called on Opec members to release all their supply into the market "to give a positive signal ... that we are not (facing) any shortage."

He said that there was no problem with world crude stocks.

Yusgiantoro in Jakarta said current record prices around 55 dollars reflected a political risk premium of some 10-15 dollars.

"It is a geopolitical matter that is unrelated to the world oil market," he said, apparently referring to tensions in the Middle East.

But analysts believe that the world has little spare supply of oil to cushion the effects of unexpected outages such as last month's Hurricane Ivan in the US Gulf of Mexico.

The outage has impeded the seasonal stockbuild of winter fuels, with US heating oil inventories lingering 12 percent below last year's level.

US officials have said solid growth might be slightly diminished but not derailed by expensive oil, while fast-growing Asian importers continue to show evidence of strong demand. *Reuters, AFP*

Asia shares gain on concern over global growth

SINGAPORE—Asian shares edged higher on Tuesday as investors showed increasing concern about threats to global economic growth.

Japan's Nikkei index ended up 0.12 percent at 10,672.46, as banks and insurers recovered. But exporters were hit recent strength in the yen.

"I don't think we've seen the end of this bout of dollar weakness," said Tohru Sasaki, chief forex strategist at JPMorgan Chase in Tokyo.

The dollar bought 106.73 yen, barely changed on the day and not far off the six-month low of 106.22 it touched on Monday.

An MSCI index of Asia-Pacific shares outside Japan rose 0.25 percent, led by its consumer products component. Its technology component fell 0.93 percent, pulled by countervailing trends.

In Asia, Advantest Corp., the world's largest maker of chip testing devices, jumped 4.01 percent ahead of an earnings report that showed a near 12-fold rise in half-year profit.

But Taiwan Semiconductor Manufacturing Co., the world's largest contract microchip maker, dropped 2.31 percent just before posting record profits that jumped 84 percent from a year earlier. Rival United Microelectronics Corp. lost 2.46 percent.

Analysts said Taiwan's losses mirrored sector declines elsewhere on Friday. Taiwan's markets were closed on Monday due to a typhoon, and the benchmark index fell 1.94 percent on Tuesday.

Shares in Japanese banks and insurers rose. Mizuho Financial Group, Japan's biggest lender, was up 2.01 percent and top insurer Millea Holdings Inc. rose 3.7 percent.

Canon Inc. shed 0.98 percent and Honda Motor dropped 1.18 percent.

Benchmark indexes were near flat to up 0.69 percent in Singapore, Australia, South Korea and in Hong Kong.

In Australia, media group News Corp. climbed 3.07 percent after shareholders overwhelmingly supported its plan to shift to the United States. The company also maintained its 2004/05 earnings guidance.

Japanese government bond prices rose fractionally after a 600 billion-yen ($5.63 billion) auction of 20-year debt. The yield on the benchmark 264th 10-year JGB slid 0.5 basis point to 1.420 percent. *Reuters*

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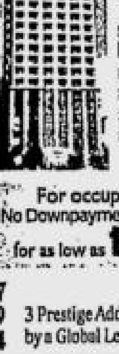

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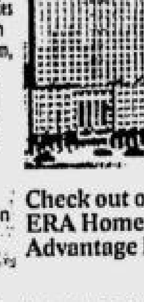

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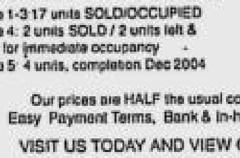

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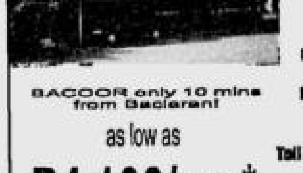

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(PDI – October 27, 2004)

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NOTICE TO THE DEPOSITORS OF THE CLOSED RURAL BANK OF CULASI (ANTIQUE), INC.

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   1231 Makati City
3. Depositors are advised to present the following requirements to the PDIC representatives when filing their claims:
   a. Original evidence of deposit such as Savings Passbook and/or Certificate of Time Deposit.
   b. Two (2) latest identification cards/documents (IDs) with depositor's signature.

   Other documents maybe required by the PDIC representatives in the course of their processing of claims filed.
4. Pursuant to the provision of R.A. 3591, as amended by R.A. 9302, the presecriptive date (last day) for filing claims for insured deposits in the closed Rural Bank of Culasi (Antique), Inc. is on **October 21, 2006**. After **October 21, 2006**, PDIC as insurer, shall no longer accept any claim for insured deposits maintained with the said closed bank.

PHILIPPINE DEPOSIT INSURANCE CORPORATION

(PDI - Oct. 27 & 28, 2004)

WANTED
OFFICE SECRETARY

- Female, 25 to 35 years old
- College graduate
- Proficient in both oral & written English
- Knowledgeable in MS-Word & MS-Excel programs

Send your resumé to:

The Head of the Personnel Department
SECURITY & SAFETY
CORPORATION OF THE PHILIPPINES
Marius Business Center Building
75 F. Manalo St., Cubao, Quezon City

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PUBLIC NOTICES

ANNOUNCEMENT

Notice is hereby given that the estate of the late Alberto G. Sarte has been settled thru execution of the Affidavit of Self-Adjudication as per Doc # 431 Page No. 97 Book No. X Series of 2004 Before Atty. Madeline B. Mendoza (PDI-Oct. 20,27 Nov.3.2004)

LEGAL NOTICE

Notice is hereby given that the estate of the late Felicitas Guilas Salvosa has been Extra Judicially settled by her heirs on October 22, 2004 Per Doc#287 Page#58 Book# LXXXV Series of 2004 Before Notary Public Laureano Carlos III ofSn. Fdo City, Pampanga (PDI Oct. 27, Nov.3, 10, 2004)

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Republic of the Philippines
Province of Surigao del Sur
City of Bislig
Bids and Awards Committee

Invitation for Bids (IFB)

October 22, 2004

To All Qualified Bidders:

1. The Government of the Republic of the Philippines has received a loan from the World Bank *[or Japan Bank for International Cooperation,* as the case maybe] towards the cost of financing the Third Elementary Education Project (TEEP) and intends to apply part of the funds to cover eligible payments for civil works component of the project. Bidding is open to all bidders from eligible source countries as defined in the *Guidelines for Procurement under World Bank [or JBIC, as the case maybe]* Loans.
2. The Bids and Awards Committee (BAC) Bislig City, as co-implementor of the project invites sealed bids from eligible bidders for the New Construction of the following:
   - Package "K" - Two (2) Storey – Six (6) Classroom School Building in Mangagoy East Elem. School located at Barangay Mangagoy, Bislig City (Bldg. I)
   - Package "L" - Two (2) Storey – Six (6) Classroom School Building in Mangagoy East Elem. School located at Barangay Mangagoy, Bislig City (Bldg. II)
3. Bidding documents may be purchased at the City Engineer's Office with address at *City Engineering Office, City Hall, Poblacion, Bislig City* for a non-refundable fee of Php 2,500.00 for each set. Interested bidders may obtain further information at the same address.
4. Bids shall be valid for a period of ninety (90) days after Bid opening and must be accompanied by a bid security in the amount of 2.5% in a form of cash or bank guarantee of the total bid price, and shall be delivered to the City Bids and Awards Committee on or before December 02, 2004 at 2:00 P.M., City Hall, Poblacion, Bislig City at which time they will be opened in the presence of the bidders who wish to attend.
5. Pre-bid Conference will be on November 15, 2004 at 2:00 P.M. at City Engineering Office, City Hall, Poblacion, Bislig City.

(Sgd.) FELIPE P. SABALDAN, JR.
Chairman
City Bids and Awards Committee

(PDI – October 27, 2004)

Republic of the Philippines
DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY
Office of the Legal Counsel
Hearing Division
Natural Gas Office
Energy Center Fort Bonifacio
Taguig, Metro Manila

In the Matter of the Application for a Permit to Construct, Operate and Maintain an Own-Use Pipeline from its Refinery in Tabangao, Batangas to the Shell Philippines Exploration B.V. On-Shore-GAS Plant in Tabangao, Batangas

OLC and NGO Case No. NG-2004-001

Pilipinas Shell Petroleum Corporation
Applicant
x————————————x

ORDER

Pilipinas Shell Petroleum Corporation has submitted an application to the Department of Energy (DOE) for a permit to Construct, Operate, and Maintain an Own-Use Pipeline from its Refinery in Tabangao, Batangas to the Shell Philippines Exploration B.V. On-Shore-GAS Plant in Tabangao, Batangas.

This Office has set the hearing of the application at ten o' clock in the morning (10:00 am) on 15 November 2004 at the Audio-Visual Room, Department of Energy, Energy Center, Fort Bonifacio, Taguig, Metro Manila.

Applicant is hereby directed to cause the publication of this Order once in one (1) newspaper of general circulation on or before 29 October 2004.

Any interested party who wishes to oppose or comment on the application should file its opposition or comments with this Office not later than 05 November 2004. Such party who wishes to have a copy of the application of Pilipinas Shell Petroleum Corporation may request from the applicant, through this Office for a copy thereof. Applicant Pilipinas Shell Petroleum Corporation is hereby directed to furnish, also through this Office, such interested party making the request with copy of the application and the relevant attachments.

Let copy of this Order be furnished the applicant immediately for its information, guidance and compliance.

SO ORDERED.

October 7, 2004, Department of Energy, Fort Bonifacio, Taguig, Metro Manila

By Authority of the Secretary:

(Sgd.) ATTY. ARTURO V. BALOALOA
Director Office of the Legal Counsel

(Sgd.) ATTY. ANGELITO V. AGONCILLO
Chief, Hearing Division

(Sgd.) ENGR. JESUS T. TAMANG
Chief, Natural Gas Office

(PDI--Oct. 27, 2004)

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DBP
Development Bank of the Philippines

INVITATION TO PRE-QUALIFY AND TO BID FOR THE ACQUISITION OF A FINANCIAL ASSET THROUGH A SEALED BID AUCTION SALE

The Development Bank of the Philippines ("DBP"), through its Bids and Awards Committee ("BAC"), hereby issues this invitation to interested parties to apply for pre-qualification and to bid for the purchase of a financial asset, specifically investment in subordinated convertible notes (CN), on CASH BASIS ONLY. The outstanding principal balance of the CN is US Dollar: Thirty Million and 00/100 (USD:30,000,000.00).

The CN will be sold through a sealed-bid auction process (the "Transaction"). Detailed Bidding Guidelines will be provided to each bidder that qualifies to participate in the Transaction.

Each interested party that submitted itself for prequalification will be evaluated based on the criteria set forth in the Terms of Reference for Prequalification.

Each interested party submitting pre-qualification documents will be required to pay a registration fee of US Dollar: THREE THOUSAND and 00/100 (USD:3,000.00) (net of bank wire charges) as a condition for pre-qualification, among others. The Transaction Registration Fee is Non-Refundable and payment due date is non-extendible.

All interested parties may obtain the Terms of Reference for Prequalification from and at the following address:

THE CHAIRMAN
BIDS AND AWARDS COMMITTEE ("BAC")
FOR THE SALE OF FINANCIAL ASSET
c/o Asset Management
2nd Floor, DBP Building
Development Bank of the Philippines
Sen. G.J. Puyat Avenue cor. Makati Avenue
Makati City, Philippines 1200

Deadline for the submission of eligibility requirements for prequalification shall be on **November 11, 2004 at 10:00 a.m.** Manila time and is non-extendible.

Pre-Bid Conference will be held on **December 2, 2004 at 10:00 a.m.** Manila time, or on an earlier date that will be notified in writing by the BAC to the pre-qualified bidders. The Pre-Bid Conference shall be held at the office of the Development Bank of the Philippines.

THE DBP ASSUMES NO OBLIGATION WHATSOEVER TO COMPENSATE OR INDEMNIFY ANY BIDDER FOR ANY EXCUSE OR LOSS THAT ANY BIDDER MAY INCUR IN THE PREPARATION OF ITS BID.

DBP RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY AND ALL INTERESTED PARTIES FROM PARTICIPATING IN THE PRE-QUALIFICATION; AND, REJECT ANY AND ALL BIDS, TO WAIVE ANY FORMALITY THEREIN, OR TO ACCEPT SUCH BIDS AS MAY BE CONSIDERED MOST ADVANTAGEOUS TO THE BANK. THE DECISION OF THE BANK IS FINAL AND BINDING.

For particulars, please inquire from the BAC thru the HEAD ASSET MANAGEMENT, 2nd Floor DBP Building, Development Bank of the Philippines, Sen. Gil J. Puyat Ave. cor. Makati Ave., Makati City, Philippines or call (632)-830-0544 or e-mail us at amd-ar@devbankphil.com.ph

(Sgd.) SEVP PANSER E. TUMANGAN
Chairman, Bids and Awards Committee

(PDI–Oct. 27 & Nov. 3, 2004)

REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES
PROVINCE OF ZAMBOANGA SIBUGAY
BIDS AND AWARDS COMMITTEE
MUNICIPALITY OF SIAY

INVITATION FOR BIDS (IFB)

ZSNCB-2004-013-015

October 27, 2004

To All Qualified Bidders:

1. The Government of the Republic of the Philippines has received a loan from the *International Bank for Reconstruction Development (IBRD)* towards the cost of financing the Third Elementary Education Project (TEEP) and intends to apply part of the funds to cover eligible payments for civil works component of the project. Bidding is open to all bidders from eligible source countries as defined in the *Guidelines for Procurement under World Bank Loans.*
2. The Bids and Awards Committee (BAC) invites sealed bids from eligible bidders for the following:

   Construction of 1 unit-6CL (Two Storey) School Building in Monching Elementary School, Brgy. Monching, Siay, ZS
3. Bidding documents may be purchased at the Municipal Engineers Office with address at Brgy. Poblacion, Siay, Zamboanga Sibugay for a non-refundable fee of Php 2,500.00 for each set. Interested bidders may obtain further information at the same address.
4. Bids shall be valid for a period of ninety (90) days after Bid opening and must be accompanied by a security in the amount of 2.5% of total bid price, and shall be delivered to the Bids and Awards Committee, Municipality of Siay on or before *10:00 AM, November 26, 2004*, at which time they will be opened in the presence of the bidders who wish to attend.
5. For clarification, a Pre-bid Conference will be conducted at *10:00 AM, November 16, 2004* at the Municipal Hall Building, Siay, Zamboanga Sibugay.

(Sgd.) CRISTITA L. GABATO
Chairperson
Bids and Awards Committee

(PDI - Oct. 27, 2004)

Pasig River Rehabilitation Commission

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR PRE-QUALIFICATION AND TO BID

The Republic of the Philippines has received a loan from the Asian Development Bank (ADB) for the Pasig River Environmental Management and Rehabilitation Sector Development Program (PAREMAR). The Pasig River Rehabilitation Commission (PRRC) as executing agency of the PAREMAR intends to apply a portion of the proceeds of this loan to eligible payment under the contract for which this invitation for Application to Pre-qualify and to Bid is issued.

PRRC and the City of Manila as the Implementing Agency of the contract are inviting CONTRACTORS to apply for pre-qualification and bid for the following contract package:

Contract Package	Area	Location	Contract Duration	Project Description	Scope of Works
Muelle dela Industria Linear Park Project (EPA-LPP-15)	10,021.87 sq.m.	Muelle dela Industria Rd., Binondo, Manila	180 Calendar Days	Community Park and Promenade	a. Demolition b. Hauling/Disposal of Refuse Materials c. Backfill and Compaction d. Concrete Works e. Site Improvements f. Supply/Installation of Park Elements g. Painting Works h. Electrical Works i Drainage and Plumbing Works

Interested contractors are required to submit a **Letter of Intent** and secure a complete set of pre-qualification and bid documents from **November 4, 2004 to November 10, 2004** at the **Pasig River Rehabilitation Commission**, 2/F, MWSS Eng'g Bldg., Katipunan Road, Old Balara, Quezon City, Tel. Nos.: 433-3444 and 433-3446, Fax No.: 296-6449. E-mail: prrc@tri-isys.com upon payment of a non-refundable fee of Thirteen Thousand Four Hundred Pesos (Php 13,400.00)

Congregation for Site Inspection shall be at the Flagship Projects Management Office of the City of Manila, Museo de Manila, T.M. Kalaw St., Cor. Roxas Boulevard, Manila on **November 19, 2004** at 9:00 a.m. A Pre-Bid Conference shall be held on the same day at 3:00 p.m. at the PRRC Conference Room.

The accomplished pre-qualification and bid documents shall be submitted to the **Pasig River Rehabilitation Commission** in two (2) separate sealed envelopes containing three (3) copies each of the pre-qualification and bid documents on or before **12:00 NN, December 20, 2004.** The date of bid opening shall be announced later.

The contractors shall submit together with the pre-qualification documents a notarized sworn statement stating their project workload as of date of bidding, including newly awarded but not yet started contracts with the corresponding contract amount. The contractor shall be pre-qualified based on their financial capacity, technical capability and work experience. The list of other required documents for submission is included in the pre-qualification documents

The criteria for Pre-qualification, Bid Evaluation, Award of Contract and Post-qualification shall be governed by the ADB Guidelines For Procurement of Civil Works and R.A. No. 9184.

The PRRC Inter-Agency Bid and Award Committee reserves the right to reject any or all bids without offering any reason, waive minor informalities, or accept such bids which shall be the most advantageous to the Government. The decision of the PRRC Inter-Agency BAC shall be final and binding upon approval of the PRRC Board of Commissioners and ADB.

For further information, please contact the BAC Secretariat c/o Ms. Amelia V. Gamay at Tel. Nos. 433-3447 and 926-5234.

(Sgd.) BINGLE H.B. GUTIERREZ
Executive Director
Pasig River Rehabilitation Commission

(Sgd.) DEOGRACIAS J. TABLAN, Jr.
City Gov't Dept Head III and
OIC, Flagship Projects

(PDI - Oct 20 & 27, 2004)

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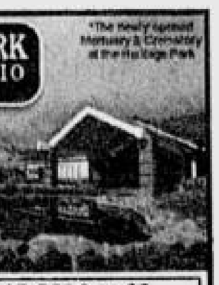
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BENIGNA QUINA TAMAYO

September 19, 1916 - October 25, 2004
Retired Teacher and Former Barangay Captain
Currimao, Ilocos Norte

Peacefully joined her Creator and her loving husband Vicente Tamayo on October 25, 2004 at the age of 88.

Her loving children **Delia, Evangeline** (†), **Concepcion** and **Raymundo Rafols, Jr., Rosario** and **James Oania, Ray** and **Marilou Raguindin, Edwin** and **Cleofe Silao**; her loving grandchildren **Rodney & Raquel, Claire & Manny Salamat, Chandra Jean & John Hopkins, Alyssa Beth, Gareth James, Wendy Jane, Warren, Weslee Rae, Eliza May, John Ryan, Kevin Gregory** and **Marivic**; her great grandchildren **Christelle Ann, Ember Rose, Pascha Grace, Braeden Reece** and **Kristine May**; relatives and friends request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of her soul.

Her remains lie in state at the family residence in Currimao, Ilocos Norte.

Interment will be at Currimao municipal cemetery on a date to be announced later.

Whoever finds his life will lose it, and whoever loses his life for my sake will find it.
Matthew 10:39

Dr. Francisco C. Tiburcio

of Marikina City

Passed away in the Grace of our Lord on October 23, 2004 at the age of 76.

His bereaved wife **Ning**; daughters and in-laws **Blen and Geoff Johnstone, Shiela and Philip Roldan**; grandchildren **Nicole, Jason & Lauren.**

Brothers and sisters, nephews and nieces, grandchildren and other relatives request your prayers for the eternal repose of his soul.

His body lies in state at De Guzman Funeral Homes, J.P. Rizal, Sto. Niño, Marikina City.

Interment will be today, October 27, 2004 at Loyola Memorial Park, Marikina City after the 1:00 p.m. Mass at Funeraria Paz.

"I will give you as a light to the nations,
that my salvation may reach to the end of the earth."
Isaiah 49:6

The Missionary Society of St. Columban
mourns the death of

FR. WILLIAM BOURKE

who died in Rhode Island, U.S.A.
on Mission Sunday, 24th October 2004
at the age of 75.

Fr. Bourke was ordained in 1954 and then came to the Philippines. The archdiocese of Ozamiz was to be his place of assignment for the next fifty years. He served in Jimenez as assistant and later as pastor, then in Sinacaban as pastor and finally in Panaon, all neighboring towns in the province of Misamis Occidental. In 1981 he became the Chancellor of the Archdiocese, an office he held up until his death. He continued his pastoral ministry in Panaon until 1988 when he moved to the Columban House in Catadman, Ozamiz, combining the work of house bursar and manager with his work at the Chancery. Fr. Bourke was a greatly loved figure in the Archdiocese of Ozamiz.

May he rest in peace.

CLASSIFIEDS

Nat'l theater festival gala events at CCP

THE MUCH-awaited theater event of the year, Ikatlong Tagpo: the 2004 National Theater Festival, which will feature the best of Philippine music theater, will hold its events from Nov. 6 to 18, 2004 at the Cultural Center of the Philippines.

Dubbed as Piging: Gala Events, the performances include: Tian Jin Children's Peking Opera Troupe, child prodigies of the Tian Jin Theater perform highlights from kunju and wunqu masterpieces. Presented in cooperation with the Embassy of the People's Republic of China, set on Nov. 6-7, 6 p.m. & Nov. 7, 3 p.m.; the world-renowned Vienna Boys Choir will return in Manila in a back-to-back concert with the country's award-winning Loboc children's Choir in Nov. 9, 8 p.m. at Aliw Theater, Star City; Gilas! Pagdiriwang ng Opera Pilipina, with the Philippine Opera Guild, the Philippine Opera Company, UP Conservatory of Music, the UST Conservatory and the Philippine Madrigal Singers to perform favorite areas from "La Loba Negra," "Spoliarium," "Noli Me Tangere," "Balagtas at Selya" and other Philippine operative works by noted Filipino composers. Herminigildo Ranera conducts the PPO, to be slated on Nov. 10; Ryan Cayabyab, 2004 Gawad CCP Awardee takes audiences on musical journey of songs from "Larawan," "Rama Hari," "Magsimula Ka," "Katy" and other landmark musicals in Buhay! Mga Himig at Awit ng Dulaang Filipino, slated on Nov. 12-13, 8 p.m. Leading performers from people's theater reunite in a musical homage to "seditious" sarswela, street musicals and protest concerts in Hanas! Natatanging Tagpo mula sa Musikangbayan, Nov. 14, 8 p.m. and; Isang Bagong Bituin, a modern ballet and musical theater with the Philippine Ballet Theater on Nov. 18, 8 p.m.

Ikatlong Tagpo is a presentation of the CCP in cooperation with the National Commission for Culture and the Arts. The festival will also feature children's musicals, premieres and revivals, late nite cabaret, singthroughs, forums, exhibits, caucuses and international meetings. Move-over performances will also be held in associate venues in the City of Manila, De La Salle-College of Saint Benilde, St. Scholastica's College, GSIS Theater, Aliw Theater and Marikina Theater.

For more information, please call the CCP Performing Arts Department at tel. no. 832-1125 local 1606-1607 and CCP Marketing at locals 1800-1806 or direct lines 832-3681 / 832-3878 / 551-7930 or visit the "Ikatlong Tagpo" website at www.culturalcenter.gov.ph/ntf.

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Greetings from the Inquirer Classifieds and Pamilyang OFW-SME Network Foundation!

The Philippine Daily Inquirer and POFW-SMENFI are working together to come out with a very special supplement that will feature products and services for the OFW (including seafarers) and SME families.

This special pull-out section of the Philippine Daily Inquirer is a tabloid-sized section (7 cols x 30 cm) and is dedicated to feature the

Filipino Seafarers Family Expo and Forum 2004 back-to-back with **Pamilyang OFWs-SMEs Housing and Home Essentials Trade Fair 2004 SUPPLEMENT**

This will definitely be the reference of choice.
The Supplement is scheduled for release on November 12, 2004 at the opening of the above-mentioned events. In line with this, we are providing you with the following special advertising rates:

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For more information, call the Pamilyang OFW-SME Network Foundation, Inc. Secretariat at Tel. Nos. (632) 912-58-03 and (632) 437-16-60 with Fax No. (632) 437-16-59; 24-hour mobile 0916-7421768; and E-mail: gearcom@tri-isys.com

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Republic of the Philippines
DEPARTMENT OF LABOR AND EMPLOYMENT
Overseas Workers Welfare Administration

TO : ALL ACCREDITED PDOS TRAINERS

Subject : Re-Orientation Course in PDOS Management

The Overseas Workers Welfare Administration (OWWA) will be conducting a series of Re-Orientation Course in Pre-Departure Orientation Seminar (PDOS) Management for all accredited PDOS Trainers on 29 October 2004 and 05, 19 and 26 November 2004. This is in line with the development program and finalization of list of accredited PDOS Trainers. Those who fail to comply will be deemed no longer interested and will be delisted from the registry of trainers.

All accredited trainers are advised to submit a letter of intent on or before 28 October 2004, addressed to The Director, Plans and Programs Office (PPO), OWWA Building, F.B. Harrison St., Pasay City.

For more details, please contact Mr. Ronald A. Mina or Mr. John A. Macalincag at 8917763 or 8917601 loc. 5620.

(Sgd.) **MARIANITO D. ROQUE**
Administrator

(PDI--Oct. 27, 28 & 29, 2004)

Republic of the Philippines
PHILIPPINE ECONOMIC ZONE AUTHORITY
MACTAN ECONOMIC ZONE 1
Lapu-Lapu City
Tel. nos. 3400-590, 3400-594, 3400591; Telefax no. 3402949

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

1. The Philippine Economic Zone Authority (PEZA)-MEZ 1 invites all interested bidders to apply for eligibility and to bid for the Contract SECURITY SERVICES REQUIREMENT OF PEZA at the Cebu Ecozones located in Lapu-lapu City & Balamban, Cebu.
2. The Approved Budget for the Contract is P 7,054,683.72 part of Cebu Ecozones Operating Budget.
3. Duration of the Contract is twelve (12) months from the date of the contract.
4. Application for Eligibility is open to interested Bidders, juridical or individual, who meet the following requirements:
   a. Must be PADPAO accredited but need not be PEZA accredited.
   b. No existing contract with any locator in any ECOZONE in Cebu.
   c. Must have existing security guards available for immediate placement as required in the contract.
5. Application for Eligibility, Bid Documents and forms will be available for issuance starting October 20, 2004 to October 27, 2004 from MEZ I BAC Secretariat, 2nd Floor, PEZA Administration Bldg., MEZ I Lapu-lapu City upon submission of a Letter of Intent and payment of a non-refundable fee of P2,500.00
6. Pre-Bid conference is schedule at 2 P.M. October 29, 2004 at the Conference Room, PEZA Administration Bldg., MEZ I.
7. Deadline for the submission of duly accomplished Eligibility and Bid Documents in three (3) separate envelopes marked as such ((1) First Envelope – Eligibility Documents Envelope, (2) Second Envelope – Bid Envelope – Technical Proposal; (3) Third – Bid Envelope – Financial Proposal) will be at 2:00 P.M., Nov. 12, 2004, the bidding date at the same venue.
8. The PEZA MEZ I BAC reserves the right to reject any or all bids waive any defect or informality, assume no obligation whatsoever to compensate or indemnify the bidders for any expenses or losses that they may incur in the preparation of the eligibility requirements of the bids and to accept the bid advantageous to the Government. The provision of R.A. 9184 and its implementing Rules and Regulations shall apply to this bidding process.

(Sgd.) BAC, MEZ I
BELENIA B. LOBITAÑA

(PDI--Oct. 20 & 27, 2004)

NAPOLCOM, BCDA FORGES HOUSING/LAND SWAP DEAL

National Police Commission (Napolcom) chair and DILG Secretary Angelo T. Reyes (Left) and Bases Conversion Development Authority (BCDA) vice president for operations Rex Chan (right) recently signed a Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) that gave Napolcom 2,250 housing units worth P650 million located in Pamayanang Diego Silang in Fort Bonifacio, Taguig. Under the agreement, Napolcom also retained 57 thousand square meters of its land in Fort Bonifacio and got an additional 13 thousand square meters. In exchange, BCDA received a two hectare property in Camp Bago Bantay, Quezon City which was also sold to Bellevue Properties, a subsidiary of SM Investments. BCDA also got a 30 thousand square meter land in Bonifacio Global City that covers the institutional area where the British School is located and a portion of the commercial area. Among the officials present during the MOA signing include BCDA vice president for business development Aileen Zosa, BCDA manager for Land and Asset Development Dean Santiago and PNP Director General Edgardo Agilpay.

Convergent market: Can managers anticipate?

CONVERGENCE, the business strategy of bringing together of originally disparate products and services to become one, is a well-rooted and global phenomenon. With the key drivers being the emergence of new technologies, deregulation and globalization, and the receptivity of customers, no industry is exempt from potential convergence.

AC Nielsen-Asia Pacific president Bienvenido "Nonoy" Niles Jr asserted that it must become part of the strategic planning process whenever management sits down to think how they may compete successfully in their markets. "If you don't do it, your competition may, and worse, they may be working on it already," he added.

According to Niles, it is a result of overt symptoms such as the blurring and elimination of traditional market boundaries; the erosion of traditional entry barriers; companies defining their competition much more broadly; widespread investigation of brand extension and emphasis on relationship marketing.

However, convergence may be under-integrated into marketing and strategic thinking due to lack of awareness that it is happening in all sectors; lack of appreciation of convergence as a source of competitive advantage; need to think "outside the box" and to rewrite of conventional industry boundaries and industry definition and lack of awareness of enabling technologies such as e-commerce and digital technology.

Learn more about all these in Niles' presentation on the topic "Convergent Market: Can Managers Anticipate?" in the upcoming Agora Conference 2004 on Oct. 28 and 29 at the Shangri-La Hotel Makati. This year's theme is "Marketing Renaissance in a Convergent Market."

Organized by the Philippine Marketing Association, the conference will gather other marketing authorities: Karen De Asis, faculty and marketing director of DLSU Graduate School of Business; Ferdinand De La Cruz, head of Globe Telecom's wireless business group; Hon. Luis Lorenzo; and Tom Banguis Jr, president of AB Communications Inc. For inquiries, call the association secretariat at 634-4890; 634-5722; and 631-3286 or e-mail pma@philonline.com.

ARANETA CENTER NOW PEZA REGISTERED

Araneta Center Inc (ACI) was recently awarded a Philippine Economic Zone Authority (Peza) registration, which officially recognizes the Gateway Office Tower and Gateway Call Center as information technology (IT) buildings. IT buildings or parks are areas that provide amenities and infrastructure support necessary for the promotion of the IT industry. Araneta Center's Gateway Office Tower and Gateway Call Center are expected to be the next IT hub in Quezon City. Present during the signing were ACI president and COO Teofilo R. Asuncion (2nd from left) and Peza director general Lilia B. de Lima (2nd from right). The signing was witnessed by Progressive Development Corp vice president for business John Castelo (left) and Araneta Center research manager Eugene Barcelona.

A solution to micronutrient deficiency

MANY western countries are finding ways to curb the growing problem of obesity. But in countries like the Philippines, the problem of malnutrition persists.

Malnutrition is a condition caused by inadequate nutrient intake and digestion, resulting from unbalanced diet, digestive disorder, and absorption problem. The condition is common among children but even adults and elderly individuals may suffer from it. Vitamin A deficiency, protein-energy malnutrition, iodine deficiency disorder and iron deficiency anemia are the common micronutrient (vitamins and minerals) deficiencies seen in children and adults.

To prevent this problem, consumption of micronutrient-rich food is encouraged, along with food fortification, or the addition of one or more nutrients, which is absent or present in small amounts to a food. Medical supplementation is also vital to decrease the incidence of micronutrient deficiency.

Buclizine with iron (available as Propan with Iron) is one of the more effective supplements to help against micronutrient malnutrition. Iron plays an essential role in respiration and is considered as the "backbone of the energy producing process." It also contains vitamin B-complex including thiamine (Vitamin B1) and niacin. These vitamins aid in carbohydrate metabolism and prevent pellagra (skin affection characterized by redness, scaling and shedding with gastrointestinal disturbance) respectively. It helps maintain appetite and normal intestinal function.

Furthermore, vitamin B6 group (pyridoxine, pyridoxal and pyridoximine) combines with phosphorous for fatty acid, glucose and amino acid metabolism. Vitamin B6 deficiency can cause central nervous system disturbances. While vitamin B12 and closely related cobalamins function as protein synthesizer. Inadequacy of vitamin B12 causes nervous system degeneration, ammenorhea (irregular menstrual cycle) and pernicious anemia.

Buclizine with Iron is one of the most frequently prescribed medications for micronutrient deficiencies. It has been shown to help in proper respiration and blood oxygenation. It contains buclizine, a known appetite builder, also enhances the appetite of elderly individuals, convalescent patients, and those with tuberculosis.

Propan with Iron is distributed by Pascual Laboratories Inc.

For more information on the benefits of buclizine, call the propan hotline at 426-5639 or e-mail multiline@pascual-lab.com from 8 am to 5 pm, Monday to Friday.

PROJECT WET FOR ENVIRONMENTAL PERSPECTIVE

Nestlé Waters Philippines recently conducted a whole-day Project Water Education for Teachers (WET) workshop for the officers of the Laguna Lake Development Authorities (LLDA) at the Ninoy Aquino Parks and Wildlife Bureau. Project WET aims to encourage educators to approach learning and teaching with an environmental perspective and equips them with innovative methods of teaching about wonders and concerns of our water resources and the environment. Shown is a Project WET facilitator demonstrating one of the easy-to-learn, interactive and fun activities.

Up-to-date services from Ellen's Aesthetic Center

BEAUTY is skin deep. But to be able to achieve long and lasting beauty, it has to be supported with utmost care. Pampering one's self is not an easy task, but if you have the drive to do it, you can easily achieve it. Maintaining one's healthy skin can be very taxing sometimes. You need to be patient and cool, with the pricey amount that goes with the package. Indeed, the price of being beautiful can really be very hurtful on the pocket.

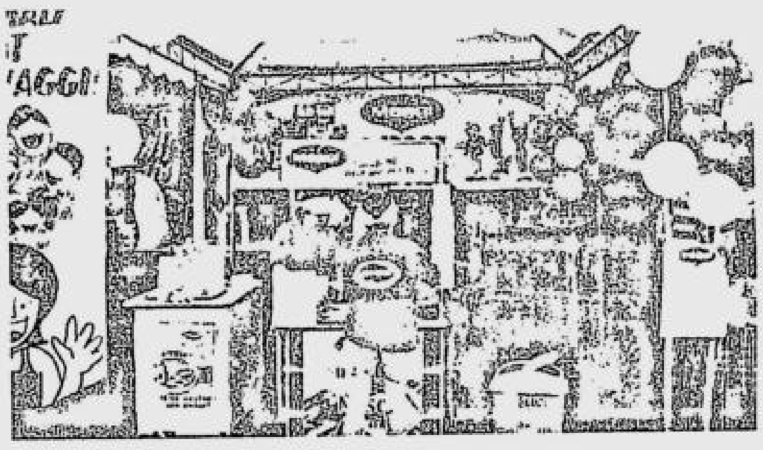
Not with Ellen's Skin Care and Aesthetic Center. The customer's skin and well-being are its primary concern over the fee. A lot of Ellen's customers can attest to the fact that it has one of the most affordable payment schemes in the market. And its surgical and non-surgical services are at par with the most expensive and the so-called "leaders" in this field.

Ellen's has been known for permanent cosmetics (lipstick, eyebrow and eyeliner). It now offers more up-to-date services such as body whitening treatments, whitening scrub (a special formula of AHA and lactic acid scrub to help skin achieve a clearer complexion), whitening scrub with whitening mask (a plant extract associated with vitamin C to regulate the production of melanin while reducing tyronisase to complete the whitening process of the skin, and underarm whitening scrub (that exfoliates the dead skin). Also available in the Center are diamond peel and laser hair removal.

Its Miracle Whitening Cream is the bestseller among Ellen's top-of-the-line products, especially for those who have problems in the hidden dark spots of the body (groin, nape, elbows and underarms). It can do wonders in just one week. The Miracle Whitening Lotion is also available in maintaining the skin's flawless complexion. Soon, the Miracle Whitening Srub Soap will be available.

Meanwhile, for surgical services, Ellen's liposuction still tops the list followed by the nose lift, breast augmentation and the new chin reduction. Certified plastic surgeons trained abroad will handle all operational procedures in the Center.

For more questions and free consultations, call Ellen's hotline at 374-6665.



MAGGI LAUNCHES SINIGANG SA MISO

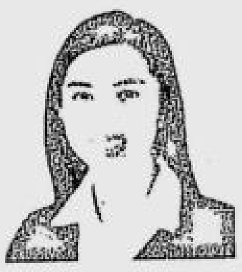
Maggi Sinigang sa Miso, the newest offering from Maggi, was recently launched through a series of wet market visits. Special promo teams dubbed as the Maggi Patrol went to different public markets around Luzon to do samplings, conduct games like the videoke challenge and pick-a-prize contest and sell various Maggi products. Maggi Sinigang sa Miso is the newest 'sinigang' variant from Maggi. Convenient and affordable, it makes cooking 'sinigang sa miso' easy and hassle-free. Maggi Sinigang sa Miso also has the taste of natural 'sampalok' and the flavor and richness of real 'miso', making it delicious and nutritious at the same time. The new Maggi Sinigang sa Miso is now available in leading supermarkets and groceries.

Bits Clips

Guidance Circle of the Philippines confab

THE GUIDANCE Circle of the Philippines, in cooperation with Asian Psychological Services and Assessment Corp (Apsa) and the Association of Psychological and Educational Counselors of Asia Pacific (Apeca) will hold its 4th Annual Convention on Oct. 27 and 28 at the Traders Hotel, Roxas Boulevard, Pasay City. With the theme "Current Perspective and Skills of the Professional Guidance Counselor", the convention aims to present and discuss the different roles of the professional guidance counselor and to tackle issues in the Guidance Counseling profession. For more details, call Apsa at 525-7238, 525-7277 or 525-7336 and look for Ciel, Teng, Nette or Coy.

Torino among CPA top 20

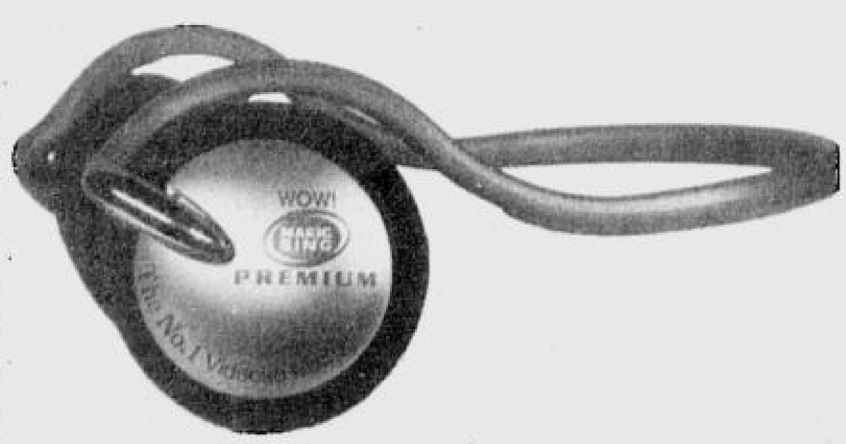


KATHLEEN Torino, a consistent Dean's Lister and graduated cum laude from La Salle-Lipa, is number 20 in the recent CPA Board Exams out of 6,967 examinees with a grade of 86.57 percent where only 20.08 percent passed. Five years ago, Bro. Rafe Donato, former president of the school, invited Hernando M. Vitas, chair of the board of trustees of Vitas Foundation, to sponsor several of its scholars and join the Foundation for Sharing La Sallian Education. Vitas readily accepted it with the end in view of producing another Sen. Jose W. Diokno from Batangas in this millennium. Incidentally, Ka Pepe Diokno graduated Summa Cum Laude at La Salle-Taft and topped the CPA Board Exams.

ProductFiles

Sounds galore!

YOU NOW get more value for your money, at the same time enjoying a whole new approach to your singing pleasure. In-A-Jiffy Enterprises (IAJE), exclusive distributor of WOW! Magic Sing Premium, the number one selling videoke microphone in the country, has taken home entertainment a step further with the introduction of a new member of its family, the Neckphone.



The Neckphone is a lightweight and trendy set that clips over your ears and swing around the back of your head. The sound quality is above average for neckphones. The highs are strong and clear with plenty of presence. The bass is much stronger and deeper and the heavy lows are big and smooth. The device is so user friendly that it simply connects directly to the microphone. In addition, the device is the perfect partner with the microphone's record and play feature, which gives you a recording studio effect.

The Neckphone comes free with every purchase of a WOW! Magic Sing Premium videoke microphone.

HALLOWEEN MIDNIGHT SPECIALS!

All SM Supermalls will be open until 12 midnight on October 29, 2004.

SM City Lucena Halloween Special
Oct. 29-30 10 a.m. to 10 p.m.
Oct. 31- Nov. 1 10 a.m. to 12 midnight

PEOPLE at WORK
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Text us your feedback: inquirer paw name/city/message to 2207 (Globe) or 283 (Smart)

PEOPLE AT WORK PULSE

Is the Internet working at work?

ILLUSTRATION BY STEPH BRAVO

By Janice Gotamco and Gina Hechanova,
Ateneo CORD Contributors

PEOPLE AT WORK Pulse

INTERNET-CONNECTIVITY has already become the standard in any work setting. Chances are if you're not connected to the Net, you'll be left behind. Internet technology can enhance the productivity and growth of businesses. Companies and organizations use the Internet to get connected to people and information anytime, anywhere. Employees are able to access global information at the click of a button. Letters, deals and contracts are sent via e-mail and can reach you within seconds. This allows employees and organizations to become more efficient and productive.

However, just like information placed in the hands of a misguided person, unlimited, unrestricted and unsupervised Internet access can be misused and abused by employees. As the Internet age has altered the way we conduct business, it has also changed work activities and practices in the organization. Although the Internet can help employees accomplish more, organizations today are having a more difficult time directing and monitoring employee productivity and behavior because more and more work activities are becoming virtual and are, therefore, harder to observe, control and trace. As such, People at Work Pulse wanted to find out, how exactly is the Internet used in the workplace.

Survey results

People at Work Pulse conducted a survey to see what activities were done in the Internet while at work. Out of the 150 respondents who participated, 92 percent said that they had Internet access at work while only a minimal 8 percent said they had none. These respondents were composed of 36 percent males and 64 percent females. The average age of the respondents was 32 years old, ranging from 21 to 75 years of age. Employed in various organizations such as insurance firms, call centers, banks, government agencies, consulting firms, schools, manufacturing, electronics and multinational companies, these respondents occupy and work in different levels and departments in their organizations.

At an average, these respondents used the Internet for 3.56 hours per day. They utilized 76 percent of their Internet time for work-related activities and 24 percent for non-work related activities. These non-work related activities included personal instant messaging (35 percent) such as Yahoo! Messenger, ICQ, and MSN messenger; listening to the radio or music via the Internet (19 percent); downloading music, movies and software (13 percent); playing Internet computer games (9 percent); and others, such as checking personal e-mail, reading the news, completing banking transactions, researching, and blogging.

Common websites visited by employees that were non-work related included personal e-mail accounts (72 percent), news (44 percent), entertainment (30 percent), chat rooms, message boards, Friendster (25 percent), sites for downloading free software or music (19 percent), sports (15 percent), shopping (9 percent), and pornography (7 percent). Other sites mentioned by the respondents were banking, educational, and graphics or picture sites, hobby sites, their personal websites, blogs, online advertisements, Google, and Jobstreet.

Downtime

While Internet at work has mostly been put to good use—updating clients on their accounts, researching on market information, sending business e-mails, communicating with partners locally or abroad, buying and selling through the company website—it has also been the cause of downtime at work. Downtime is used to refer to time lost by the organization when an employee engages in activities not directed towards his or her job and overall company productivity as opposed to activities that could have benefited the company. Simply put, downtime means the organization did not get what it had supposedly paid for. From the survey results, on average, downtime is a little less than one hour per day (51 minutes to be exact) as employees spend 24 percent of their Internet time at work doing non-work related activities. This amounts to a little less than five to six hours per week. The implication: three-fourths of one day a week is wasted due to downtime.

Policies and privileges

Companies have taken steps to address these issues by providing Internet usage policies. Having policies for Internet use is helpful for both management and employees to clarify the do's and don'ts, acceptable and unacceptable practices on Internet use at work. According to the survey, 70 percent of companies have Internet policies in place. Most companies employ and implement a right to access e-mails, documents, and any other transactions done through the company computers. Although this may be seen as a violation of one's privacy, companies have the right to monitor and control the resources and technology they provide employees. Fortunately, 82 percent of the respondents agree with this condition. And while some companies extend the privilege for employees to use the Internet for personal purposes, it is good practice for management to clarify, communicate and publish rules, monitor Internet usage, and correct inappropriate Internet practices and behaviors. On the part of employees, it is fair behavior to respect company resources and contribute to overall productivity, and business health by using Internet at work for its intended purpose.

(*Gotamco is a graduate student of M.A. in Industrial/Organizational Psychology program of the Ateneo de Manila. Hechanova is a faculty member and director for Research and Organizational Development of Ateneo CORD. Send feedback to this article to* ateneocord@admu.edu.ph.)

Current views on labor unions

PEOPLE AT WORK Pulse

PEOPLE at Work and the Ateneo Center for Organization Research and Development (Ateneo CORD) partner to listen to the heartbeats of working people through this People at Work Pulse.

Is your pulse rate a bit too fast due to stress? Is it slowing down due to asphyxiation from traffic fumes? Or is it just beating happily to the rhythm of life? Your thoughts, feelings and beliefs on various workplace issues close to your hearts, when shared, can contribute to transforming our places into more human-friendly places to work in.

This "pulse" will be conducted once a month. The results of this poll will be published the following month. To quicken your response rates, Philippine Daily Inquirer and Ateneo CORD will be giving gift packages to two respondents to be drawn from those who replied for the month.

Winners from respondents of last month's survey are Mifelin Ann Garcia and Flor Estrella (please contact The Philippine Daily Inquirer at 897-8808 local 554 to claim your prizes).

1. Does your company have a union?
___ Yes ___ No
2. Are you a union member?
___ Yes ___ No
3. What do you think of the objectives of unions?
____
4. How relevant are unions to you? ___
(1 - very irrelevant to 5 - very relevant)
5. (Skip question if answer to question 1 is No) What is the relationship of your company to its union?
___a. Supportive
___b. Neutral
___c. Adversarial
6. (Skip question if answer to question 1 is No) How do employees in your company perceive their union?
___a. pro-management
___b. pro-employees
___c. takes balanced view between management and employees
7. Given a choice, would you like to be a member of the union?
___ Yes ___ No
8. In your opinion, are unions beneficial to employees?
___ Yes ___ No
Name: ______________________
Gender: __________ Age: ________ Civil Status: _____
Nature of job: ______________________
Company Name: ______________________
Industry: ______________________
Tel/Mobile/E-mail: ______________________

Mail or fax this form or email-text your answers to: People at Work Pulse, Ateneo Center for Organization Research and Development, 2/F Hoffner Bldg., Social Development Complex, Ateneo de Manila University, Loyola Heights, Quezon City. Fax forms to 426-6065, e-mail ateneocord@admu.edu.ph or text answers to 0920-8319522. Write: topic 1.(answer), 2. (answer), etc: name, gender, status, position, company, address, contact numbers or e-mail.

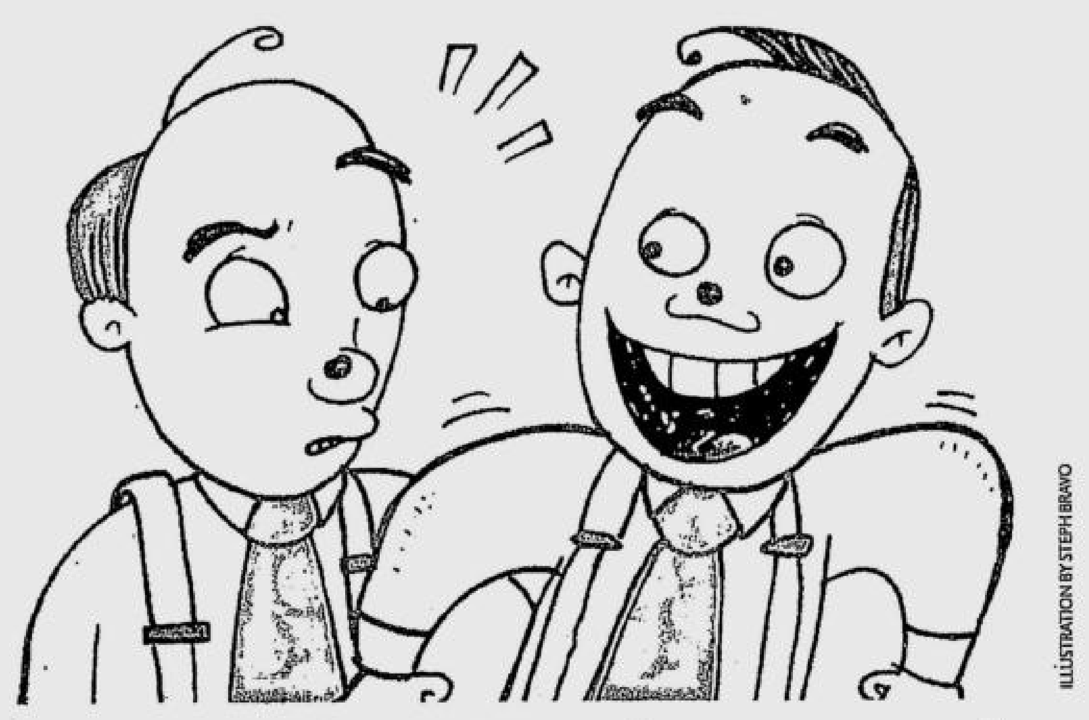
ILLUSTRATION BY STEPH BRAVO

How do you find the right CEO coach?

WORKING WOUNDED

Bob Rosner

DEAR WW: I've decided that I should hire a CEO coach. How do I find the best coach for me and how can I get the most out of him or her?

Win One For The Gipper

When you go to hire your CEO coach, don't do what Basant and Anita Jain have done. The Jains are a husband and wife team who own a bookstore in India, and for the last 14 years they've worn only matching outfits—her *sari* always matching his pants and shirt.

The "twin thing" works great for the Jains. But that kind of clone approach will lead to failure with a business coach. You want someone who can help you get a new perspective on yourself and your challenges—not someone who looks and thinks the same way you do. So interview prospective coaches using the questions below. For more, check out D.A. Benton's "Secrets of a CEO Coach" (McGraw Hill, 1999).

What can I expect to achieve working with you? Listen to the goals the coach proposes for yourself and your company. They should be things you'd like to achieve. But they might also be things you hadn't thought of, but which, on reflection, make sense for where you need to go.

What experience have you had with similar companies and leaders? Has the coach had experience with companies similar to yours in size, industry and culture? Has she worked with leaders similar to you? Has she encountered problems similar to those you're having? How has she helped clients solve those problems?

What mistakes will you help me avoid? Ask what challenges the coach foresees in your future. How will she help you handle them?

Who will actually work with me? If you're contracting with a large training firm, you may spend more time with lower level people than you do with your coach. Be sure you meet all the people you'd be working with, and are comfortable with both their styles and their credentials.

How do you charge for your services? According to Ms Benton, coaches generally charge between $2,500 and $10,000 for a program. Ask if they have a money back guarantee. Some actually do!

Do you have a track record of helping clients accomplish their

HOW DO/B13

'I want to work in human resources'

By Tita Datu Puangco

Advice FOR THE ANXIOUS PERSON AT WORK

I AM an avid reader of People at Work. I usually cut the articles and highlight important points in career planning and self-development. I graduated. last March from an exclusive school. Being the pride of the class and with very good academic standing, I never thought finding a job would be hard for me. It took me 150 resumés distributed to different companies to get a job.

Due to the country's economic problems, I am compelled to accept the job as a credit acquisition staff in an international bank on a project basis. Truthfully, I became depressed because I wasn't able to get the job I really want which is in human resources. I dream to be a training executive someday because I love facilitating activities and communicating with people. I have gone to a lot of interviews but, unfortunately, I am not accepted because of tight competition in HR. I carefully scanned my resumé and I think I have given enough information. Does determination to get the job give a negative impression to the interviewer?

My contract will end this November and I don't know what to do. I am a self-supporting individual and my parents are in the province. Of course, it will be lonely being jobless this coming Christmas. I wish to be employed in an advertising or a multinational company (particularly in the manufacturing industry) because of more training opportunities, structured organization and the chance to hone my skills.

I always dream to be an efficient and multi-skilled individual. But how can I be motivated in my job if it is not what my heart truly desires? Should I wait for a couple of months longer for a good job offer? I want to feel the energy and excitement of coming to the office everyday.

I would like to attend seminars and pursue a master's degree but for now I don't have the money and my parents can't afford it. Success for me is not money or power but being happy in a job that will satisfy and complete me. Please help me. Sometimes while at work I secretly cry at my desk because I imagine working in a job which I truly desire that is in human resources.

May God bless you more! Please reply when you receive this. More power!

HR Passionate

I can empathize with your desire to work in the field of human resources. However, at this point in your career you have little experience. You have to be patient with yourself. Make the most out of your present job. Then, persevere in sending out your resumés to the companies where you want to work when your contract ends in November. Don't wait, be proactive.

Reading your letter, I may have some clues why you have difficulty landing a job. You may have graduated with good academic standing but I am sorry to say that your written communication skills need improvement. I noticed that the letter you sent me was studded with spelling, typographical and grammatical errors. I spent some time editing it for publication. May I suggest you ask a friend with a mastery of the English language to go over your resumé and review for possible spelling and grammatical errors. Then again, you may have to practice oral English and get ready for interviews.

You failed to mention in your letter the college course you completed. Is it related to human resource management or development? Human resource management has a body of knowledge behind it. You may have to acquire the competencies required of a human resource practitioner.

Then, you may want to ask yourself, what are your motivations for wanting to go into human resources? You mentioned training and facilitating courses. This specialization would require proficient use of English. You may need to get remedial English lessons to give you a fighting chance to land a job.

Based on my knowledge of the

I WANT/B13

Company that develops its people as leaders bags award

By Candy G. Villanueva
Contributor

ALL ABOUT WORK

FOR PFIZER, developing their employees into leaders could translate to healthier, longer and happier lives for Filipinos. It is with this thrust that the 50-year-old pharmaceutical company bagged the Employer of the Year Award for 2004. Pfizer is a global, research-based health care company that discovers, develops, manufactures and markets innovative medicines for humans and animals, and many of the world's best-known consumer products like Visine, Listerine and Terramycin.

This year, Pfizer received one of the most sought after awards in the country from the Personnel Management Association of the Philippines. "We, in Pfizer, are deeply honored to have been given this outstanding distinction. It motivates us to pursue with even more intensity our commitment to be a premier employer and most importantly, to make a difference in the communities where we work and live," says Rey Gerardo Bacarro, Pfizer president and country manager. The Employer of the Year award is a fitting gift as the company celebrated its 50th year in the business. Pfizer was given the award to honor it for its exceptional accomplishments especially in the area of human resources.

Well-rounded

"I think they picked us as employer of the year because we are a well-rounded company," says Marian Lleander, human resources director of Pfizer Philippines. The Employer of the Year award was given to Pfizer for its outstanding management of its most important asset, its people. This was demonstrated by the company's leadership, strategic human resource planning, human resource focus, process management and business results.

The company was applauded for its many HR initiatives, which consist of company-wide training and mentoring programs and a total compensation package that includes a pioneering flexible benefits program that makes way for growth and development. The management of Pfizer believes that it is not enough that the employees of Pfizer are happy and content. Pfizer also strives to develop their people into movers and leaders. The company has a leadership team that works to draw out excellence from the employees. By achieving this, Pfizer hopes to develop people with a passion to make the lives of Filipinos healthier, longer and happier.

Employee development

Pfizer measures it's success not in profits alone. They measure it based on how they can create benefits for their own people and ultimately for the Filipinos. For the company, developing their employees means training them to be leaders. "We take our responsibilities for leadership very seriously. We want our people to be developed as leaders," says Lleander. The company operates on the belief that by bringing up the skill level of their employees, they are able to influence the industry to rise up to their greatest potential. And by achieving this, Pfizer believes that they can become a leader in the business.

Part of Pfizer's development programs include a business leadership program with the Asian Institute of Management to involve managers to identify areas in the company that could use improvement. The program is an interactive practical course that encourages the managers to practice what they learned.

"There's also a lot in it for the company because we have identified a lot of projects that have enabled us to raise the bar not just in our organization but also in the community," Lleander adds.

Providing opportunities

An innovative company, Pfizer has designed and experimented on several unconventional programs and incentives for their greatest assets. "We've been very much a risk taker because we've initiated some activities that normally people wouldn't think of doing," claims Lleander. Part of their unconventional programs includes training their Professional Health Care Representatives (PHRs) or medical representatives in sales management or marketing under Ateneo de Manila's Leadership and Management Development Program. The program is normally given to top managers only but Pfizer wants to open this opportunity to their PHRs. "We want to give them a broader perspective to make them step up to the plate in terms of leadership. Through projects like this, we are able to make them better potential leaders."

Another experimentation by Pfizer is the program that takes non-sales people in as PHRs. "We think it's an investment on their part as well as ours because they are put in the field and they are treated like any other reps in other professional health care companies," says Lleander. By allowing them direct interaction with the customers, the non-sales people can bring a different perspective in their job. But according to Lleander, this is just a side effect. The program's primary goal is to allow the employees to develop in the field that they want to be in. "A lot of times when they apply for a marketing position they're not taken in because they don't have any sales experience and they lose out and it doesn't make for happy employees if they don't feel like they have opportunities."

PFIZER human resources team members pursuing excellence through intensive committment: seated (L-R), Mara Barretto, Cuckoo Benipayo, Marian Lleander and Char Bolido; standing (L-R): Aileen Inocencio, Mawee Rodriguez- Maglunog, Eden Sagisi, Con Vicedo-Barcala, Leima Sevilla and Aiye Restua

HR's role

Pfizer credits its innovative employee programs and initiatives to its HR team. Human Resources plays an important role in bringing the company to its place of excellence in terms of leadership, dynamism and professionalism. The head of HR thinks this is because HR is always a part of strategic planning and decision-making in the company. "HR becomes everyone's job. It's not just my job or my HR team's job. It becomes a part of everybody's job because we all do things through people," says Lleander.

Lleander believes that the programs and goals that they have set for themselves can only reach fruition if they can expect commitment from their own people.

With this in mind, the company hopes to make HR managers out of every manager. According to Lleander, every manager must know how to manage people and deal with issues and problems within his or her team.

Jose L. Cuisia Jr. wins CEO of the Year award

THE PHILIPPINE American Life and General Insurance Company takes pride in its President and Chief Executive Officer, Mr. Jose L. Cuisia, Jr. for winning the distinction of Chief Executive Officer of the Year in the first Raul Locsin Awards for Business Excellence.

Mr. Cuisia was among high-ranking nominees from various industries and was chosen for his leadership qualities, management skills, and invaluable achievements both in government and the private sector. His balance of work, family and spiritual life creates a plus point that made him stand out among his peers. The success of insurance giant Philamlife as one of the most trusted and most recognized names in the insurance industry is also credited to his leadership.

His citation reads: "This gentleman does not confuse wealth with income. His affluence is in the things that can not be counted—in the sense of family he has brought and nurtured to the companies he serves; in the steady leadership he has cultivated in his executives and middle management; in the success of partnerships with under-privileged communities; it is in having constant time to pray and reflect; it is in the smile of his wife and in the tight embrace of his daughters.

"For these—the success of his company under his leadership, his public service as SSS administrator and Central Bank governor, his continuing effort in policy reform and advocacy, his support for the arts through the support for the Manila Philharmonic Orchestra, his contribution to the community through the company foundation, for his family and spiritual life."

For 11 years now, Mr. Cuisia has brought Philamlife to the pinnacle of success: In 2003, Philamlife registered a 46.7 percent increase in net income and posted gross revenues of P19.4 billion, up 19.2 percent versus the previous year. Since 1993, Philamlife's gross revenues have increased more than four-fold, while net investment income and total investment income have increased by more than 400 percent. Philamlife recently became the first and only Philippine life insurer named a Platinum SuperBrand, according to Readers' Digest 2004 Asian SuperBrands Survey.

In his speech, Mr. Cuisia accepted the award in behalf of his wife and five daughters, whom he described as his inspiration, and also his solace and encouragement during difficult times. "Simply put, they are my highest honors ..."

He also attributed the award to his colleagues and staff in the company because he believes that leading an enterprise successfully can never be attributed to just one individual. "It needs to be a collective effort of the most dynamic professionals in the business. I continue, therefore, to be blessed by such a fine team of individuals who share the same vision and values that I believe in."

CUISIA

In conclusion, he revealed that his goal is to emulate a successful and well-respected conductor who ensures harmony and synergy among all the different parts of the organization to be able to play beautifully together. It is because as a corporate leader, he believes that "ultimately his highest value lies in likewise drawing out his people's best talents."

'I want to work in human resources'

From page B12

job market, there are many opportunities in the field of human resources for qualified individuals. In fact, it is a field that has gained prestige and recognition in the past decade. But don't despair. Continue to be hopeful. Take one step at a time. First, stabilize your financial situation. Find a more permanent job that can be a step forward to your dream job. Then, with some cash, go for a remedial course in written and oral English. You can also start to buy books and read on human resources. Then, take some short courses at the Ancilla Business Training Center. If you are interested in training, you can take a Trainers Training course.

Praying that you'll be happy and thankful in your current job as you prepare yourself for your dream job. God bless you!

By the way, our Journalism Class 1969 is organizing a get-together for the grand reunion of the College of Arts and Letters of the University of Santo Tomas come Nov. 30 at the Manila Hotel. Please get in touch with Mia, telephone 892-2898 or 892-2896.

(Ms Puangco is CEO and chair of Ancilla Enterprise Development Consulting. Send feedback through e-mail to advice@ancillaedc.com.ph *or fax to* 892-2902.)

How do you find the right CEO coach?

From page B12

goals? Ask for at least 10 references-preferably from companies and individuals whose situations were similar to yours. Call the last three on the list. (They're apt to be less glowing than the earlier ones.) Ask what problems they worked on with the coach and how satisfied they were with the arrangement. What were they dissatisfied with?

What is your experience as a business person? There are a number of coaches out there who come primarily from a counseling background. They can provide valuable insight, but you should also be looking for someone who understands business too.

When it comes to wardrobe, the Jains are probably not in the market for coaching. But if you follow the tips above, your leadership skills shouldn't fall out of fashion.

Here are the results from a recent workingwounded.com/ABCnews.com online ballot: Could you use a coach at work?

—No, I know what I'm doing, 5.8 percent

—It depends, who's paying?, 29.4 percent

—Yes, it would be great, 64.7 percent

(Mr. Rosner is based in Seattle, Washington, USA. E-mail him at bob@workingwounded.com.)

'Mommy, why did you not kiss me?'

IT IS ANOTHER harried morning for me, and my daughter knows it. Knowing she only has a few minutes to spend with me this morning, she tries to keep up with my pace, hurrying to lay out her clothes, stuffing her school bag, and rushing into the bathroom to take her shower. When the heater takes too long, she stomps her feet and is near tears. I can hardly control my irritation. I snap, "It won't make the water any hotter faster," I say.

I go downstairs for breakfast I hardly have time to chew, and hear Simone's whining anxiety upstairs. "Stop it," I holler. "Cool it!" My taxi arrives before I have time to check on her again, and I fly out of the house, bear-hugging my boys. Simone is calling for me. But I'm very, very late for my shoot, for my meeting, for whatever is waiting for me in the office. I just have to go.

The feeling nags at me two hours later, in between appointments. I call Sim up on her cell but she doesn't answer. I figure she's in class, or in the playground. Later, she texts me, in her halting, careful English, explaining that her phone was in her bag, sorry that she couldn't answer, and why did I call? I reply, "Nothing, *anak*, I just wanted to say sorry for shouting this morning." Her answer has me falling back in my seat, the expression on my face changing so that my companions ask me what's wrong.

"It's ok, mommy," is my daughter's reply. "But why did you not kiss me?"

I am filled with shame, guilt and the overwhelming ickiness and bewilderment that Derek Zoolander must've felt when a dozen miniature Mugatus started dancing "Relax" in his mind. It was the first time—save for the times when she was staying over at her *lola's*—that I had missed kissing my daughter goodbye. We always kiss each other hello and goodbye, and she always walks me to the gate, smacks me on the lips when I have to go.

"I'm sorry, *anak*," I reply, close to tears. "I'll never do it again."

The value of a child's praise

I've never discussed my working mom guilt with Simone. There's never really been an opportunity, nor a need, but I think she's very perceptive about it. She knows that I do feel something lacking about my mothering skills sometimes, and in her limited 7-year-old understanding, has decided to help me deal with it.

I remember one time, weeks before this "why did you not kiss me" incident: I was telling an aunt how impressed I was about the Barretto sisters—Gretchen, Marjorie, and now, Claudine, with her adopted daughter—about how close they were to their kids; how I wished I were more of a hands-on mom, how great they were as mothers. Simone, who was playing nearby, piped up: "Why mommy? You're a good mom!"

Again, she almost brought me to tears. In that one sentence, she released me from all of my perceived shortcomings as a working mom—my late nights at the office, my stress-related temper, my sometimes zonked out attention span when a story is brewing in my brain. I was her mom after all, weird or not-and she loves me as much as I love her. No conditions.

WORKING MOM

Gina Abuyuan-Llanes

World-class jerks forgiven

Our children can make us feel like world-class jerks, sometimes. Mainly because we are. Admit it. Here you are, thinking you're saving the world—or the future of the publishing industry—by doing your bit, bleeding for your work, impressing presidents and audiences of millions, and coming up with brilliant money-making plans, sucking up to tycoons, when actually, all the warm applause that really matters is at home.

Your kids won't mind if you're a couple of days late for your deadline. They will absolve you if you don't make the sales quota for the month. They will forgive and forget and let you off easier than the kindest superior. They will brush aside things like shouting, and being picked up late from school, and you not being there to help them with their homework. Their capacity for love and forgiveness is boundless. This you know, this you feel when their little arms hug you round your waist, when they explore your face with their fingers, when their eyes light up when you enter the room. It's a high unmatched by any other—lover, husband, a critic's praise—except maybe when you die and are welcomed into heaven.

Such is the power of our children. And all we need to feel that high throughout our lives is to dole out kisses and hugs at home. Not a bad deal at all, if you think about it.

(Gina Abuyuan-Llanes is editor in chief of Working Mom magazine, which has got a fab new look! Check out the buntis issue, with the alluring Eula Valdez on the cover. For more on dealing with working mom guilt and the kids who forgive us every time—such as the three moms in prison, one of who raised her child from jail—get the October issue of Working Mom now. Feedback is welcome at gina_llanes@abs.pinoycentral.com.)

Harness cyber skills for effective people management

AS WE move towards an increasingly technologically-reliant workplace, there are many issues that Information Technology and human resources managers contend with. How do we harness technology for people management? How do manage employee resistance to computers? How do we protect organizations from Internet-related crimes? All of these issues will be tackled in Cyber HR: Managing the Interface between People and Technology. Topics to be discussed are: technologies of the future, state of managers' use of ICT, managing computer resistance, cybercrimes and preventing employee Internet abuse. The conference will be held on Nov. 18 at the Ateneo Professional School Auditorium in Rockwell, Makati City. This is a partnership between the Ateneo Information Technology Institute and the Center for Organization Research and Development (Ateneo CORD) and is endorsed by the Philippine TSFCI-Government Computer Security Incident Response Team.

For reservation, please visit or call the Ateneo Information Technology Institute, 130 H. V. dela Costa St., Salcedo Village, Makati City with phone numbers 840-0892, 893-6095 and 840-0912. You can also contact the Ateneo CORD, 2/F Höffner Bldg, Social Development Complex, Ateneo de Manila University, Katipunan Rd., Loyola Heights, Quezon City with phone numbers 426-6001 loc. 5263 and 426-5931.

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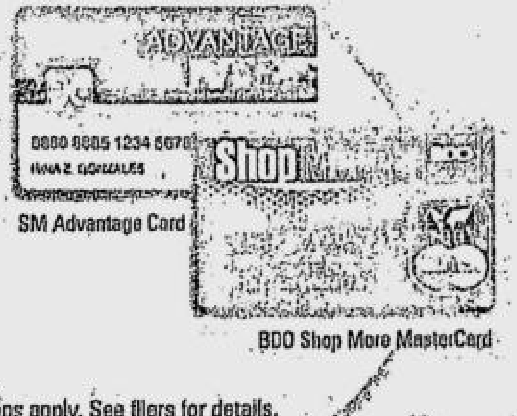

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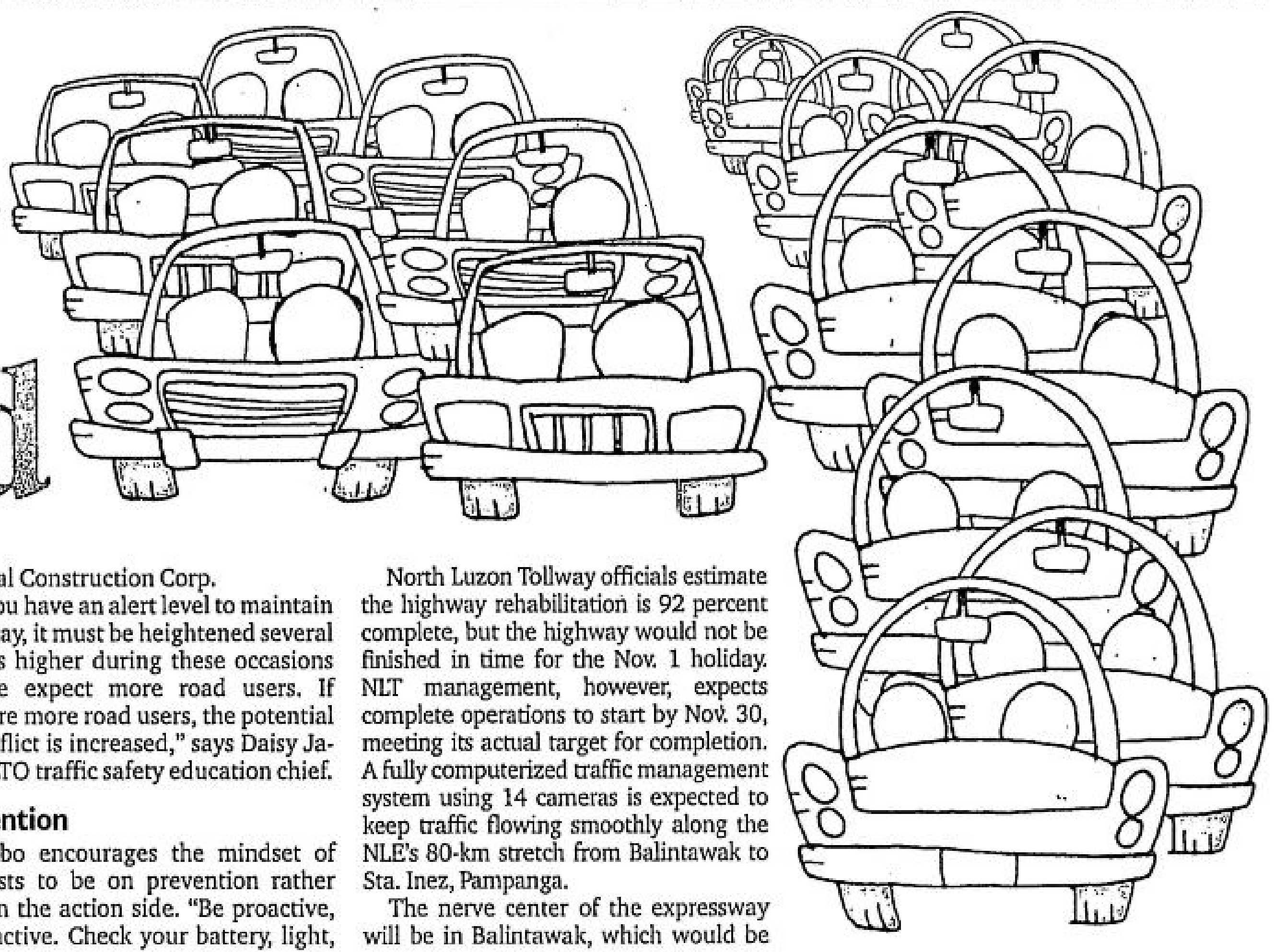
Traffic ahead as the living visits the dead



By Tessa R. Salazar

IF THE DEAD can only visit the living for once, then we'll be spared from All Souls' Day traffic.

But it's a morbid thought, so we might as well put up with the usual traffic buildup this coming weekend—Oct. 30 and 31. Will this year's All Soul's Day exodus to the provinces be similar to previous years in terms of traffic volume and time spent on the road for motorists?

Easing traffic congestion

On any given day, the South Luzon expressway is used by 200,000 vehicles while the North Luzon expressway is used by 163,000 vehicles. During holidays the volume for the SLEX increases to up to 300,000 vehicles while the NLEX increases up to 200,000 vehicles.

To help ease traffic congestion brought about by increased vehicular volume, PNCC officials last year temporarily stopped the construction of the major segments of the highway to clear up the road of construction equipment and trucks.

This year, as Manila North Tollways Corp. completes the rehabilitation of the NLEX, it says it is studying the dates the construction would again be temporarily stopped and the roads cleared to give way to the expected increase in vehicular volume.

What is certain, though, as a measure to ease traffic flow this year, traffic enforcers would be on the lookout round the clock for overloaded and "road unworthy" vehicles. Deputized agents will man weigh bridges and carry portable axle weighing equipment to monitor not only overloaded trucks but also overloaded vehicles in general.

Safe driving practices

Traffic enforcers also warn motorists to stick to safe driving practices, as road unworthy vehicles will be prohibited from entering the highway. They also warn drivers to stay alert and drive safe, which means tailgating, unsafe swerving, opening doors while driving and driving under the influence of alcohol and driving drowsy will be closely observed and be meted the necessary fines.

Traffic enforcers advise motorists to correct wiggling wheels and defective lights before embarking on a trip.

Law enforcers from different enforcement agencies, such as the Metropolitan Manila Development Authority, Philippine National Police-Traffic Management Group and deputized agents from the Land Transportation Office will be deployed to complement the existing enforcers of the Philippine National Construction Corp.

"If you have an alert level to maintain every day, it must be heightened several notches higher during these occasions because expect more road users. If there are more road users, the potential for conflict is increased," says Daisy Jacobo, LTO traffic safety education chief.

Prevention

Jacobo encourages the mindset of motorists to be on prevention rather than on the action side. "Be proactive, not reactive. Check your battery, light, oil, water, brakes, air (tires), gas and accessories before embarking on the trip.

"We cannot undermine the importance of planning the trip ahead, including one's physical and mental health—especially the drivers."

Jacobo explains that if a driver is stressed, chances are he or she would lead his or her passengers and other motorists to accidents. "One of the much-desired qualities during this time is patience. You should not be highly agitated."

"One who is patient lives to drive another day," says Jacobo.

Motorists' assistance

The South Luzon expressway enforcers, for their part, will set up motor vehicle inspection points and motorists' assistance in various strategic locations.

North Luzon Tollway officials estimate the highway rehabilitation is 92 percent complete, but the highway would not be finished in time for the Nov. 1 holiday. NLT management, however, expects complete operations to start by Nov. 30, meeting its actual target for completion. A fully computerized traffic management system using 14 cameras is expected to keep traffic flowing smoothly along the NLE's 80-km stretch from Balintawak to Sta. Inez, Pampanga.

The nerve center of the expressway will be in Balintawak, which would be called its operations and maintenance center. Strategic segments along the highway, aided by the cameras, will pick up all traffic and accident situations and relay the information to Balintawak.

Says Manila North Tollways Corp's communications director Marlene Ochoa: "Last year was the height of construction, and we stopped construction on certain days and hours. As of this time, there is no information yet if we are going to do (the same) measures."

Meanwhile, the MNTC office has received motorist complaints that some portions of the NLT were too dark, and the light posts were still not operational. Ochoa reveals that the NLE operations were still being handled by PNCC. "It has not yet been turned over to us yet. We are still not operating the NLE yet," she said.

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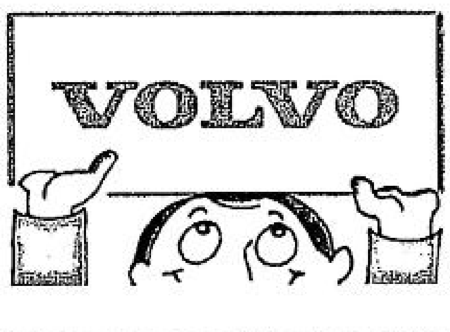
Volvo docu about road safety gold winner in World Media Fest



VOLVO'S documentary about road safety "The Driving Ape," produced by Dockhouse Film & Television, has been awarded "The World Media Festival intermedia-globe" Gold in the category Public relations—science and research.

The World Media Festival is a global competition for modern audiovisual communications media and a unique gathering of professionals from all parts of the communication business.

Entries

This year, more than 300 productions from 23 countries have been presented to the international independent expert jury groups worldwide.

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Symbol of highest honor

An award in the World Media Festival is acknowledged internationally as symbol of the highest honors in audiovisual modern communication.

A copy of the film is available in the Philippines through Viking Cars Inc., the official distributor of Volvo cars. The Volvo Makati office, showroom and Aftersales Service Center are located at 2272 Chino Roces Ave., Makati City, while Volvo Ortigas Center is located at 88 ADB Ave., Ortigas Center, Pasig City.

The 2004 Volvo automobile line includes the sporty S60, the flagship S80 luxury sedan, the versatile V70 wagon and rugged Cross Country and the all-new seven-seater XC90 AWD.

For inquiries, please call 893-6621 to 22 (Makati showroom) or 637-0414 to 17 (Ortigas showroom).

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Don't be left behind on the highways

By Tessa R. Salazar

WHO wants to be left behind during the holidays on the highway? Besides the obvious risk of exposing your stalled car to fast-moving traffic (we have heard horrifying reports of high-speed collisions involving reckless drivers and stalled cars on the shoulder), watching time pass by helplessly as you wait for assistance is certainly not an ideal way of spending your All Soul's or All Saint's Day vacation.

Come to think of it, any time is not a good time to stop anywhere on our highways, for even the shoulder can be a death trap.

Here's the rub: only you can prevent yourself from being stranded on the highways and exposing you and our loved ones to danger.

Reminders

Before going on any long-distance trip, there must be simple tasks to complete. And these must be performed on all vehicles, whether they may be spanking new straight from the showroom or '70s-era cars. The task is not that all difficult.

- **Check the basics.** Know the fluid level in the radiator, crank case, transmission, brakes, power steering and batteries, and make sure the fluid levels are all within the allowable manufacturer levels.
- **Make sure your vehicle has fresh oil and filter.** Examine the drive belts, the water hoses, the brake lining, the tires and correct tire pressure. Check your car's reserve tire, make sure it's also in good condition and within the correct tire pressure.

If your car is A/T, check the automatic transmission fluid.

Other safety tips

Then there are simple tasks to ensure the safety of your passengers, especially children. You don't even need to wait until the holidays to follow the following tips.

- **Don't seat the child on top of an adult passenger's lap.** Children below 6 years old should not be seated in the front passenger seat. It is unsafe, and it is also against the law (Republic Act 8750, or the Seatbelt Act).

But you don't have to tie your child up and stash him back in the trunk. The safest place for a child is on the seat behind the driver. Bring a child seat with you for extra young occupants.

- **Examine the safety harness of the car seat and ensure that the seatbelts are securely fastened.** If the car has been involved in a previous collision, have the seatbelts examined by the manufacturer or your repair shop or service center. It is ideal for everyone to wear sturdy three-point seatbelts, and the rear passengers should not wear only lap belts.
- **Remove all sharp objects in the car.** When your car runs in excess of 100 kph, so does everything in the car. A misplaced knife or can opener becomes a lethal airborne missile in sudden stops and collisions. Don't allow children to eat barbecue.
- **Ensure the car doors are shut properly and locked.** It is a must to remind children not to play with the door locks (though it would be much better if your car has child locks).
- **Never allow children to extend their arms or head out the window** (For safety and health sake, it would also be advisable to keep your windows shut).
- **Don't rush.** Remember, you and your family are going on a vacation, not in a WRC tour. So rushing and speeding has no place here. Don't stretch the limits of your car now.
- **Don't overload.** If you think packing eight people in a five-seater car saves fuel, think again. Not only does overloading make your car's engine work harder than it can dish out, car safety is compromised.

Now, this really happens. You're driving happily along, and suddenly you're pulled over by a highway policeman because you have inadvertently committed a traffic violation. You reach for your license and, voila! It's the great license disappearing act, and you did it at the worst possible time so far away from home. Moral of the trick: make sure your license is with you, and make sure it hasn't expired. An expired license is as worthless as having no license at all. Both will see you at the local police precinct. If that happens, ask your dead to visit you instead and bail you out of the trouble you put yourself in.

A winning formula, both on the track and in it

MICHAEL Schumacher wrapped up another winning season for the Ferrari Formula One team when he secured the driver's title for the seventh time. Ferrari and Shell are well known for their Formula One partnership, but a recent project in Italy saw the two working together quite literally from the ground up.

Shell Bitumen used its latest technology to resurface Ferrari's Fiorano test track and enable the manufacturer to put its current generation of super cars and those planned for the future to the ultimate test of man, machine and track. Ferrari is expecting to set its test drivers to work immediately, analyzing cars' drivability, braking, centrifugal effects and maneuverability on the billiard-smooth surface.

Said Shell Bitumen technical manager for Germany Martin Vondenhof: "While the cars are being pushed to the limit, the bitumen will also have to work hard. The Formula One cars will reach speeds of up to 290 kilometers per hour on the track so there is no room for error."

The bitumen grade Shell Cariphalte was chosen for the job because it is known for striking just the right balance between the flexibility and toughness required for Formula One racing circuits. Shell Cariphalte has also been used in Formula 1 racetracks like the Sepang Race Track in Malaysia, Bahrain, Hockenheim, Nurburgring; Motorcycle Grand Prix tracks like Losail in Qatar; and the Zhuhai International racetrack in China.

Shell Cariphalte is now available in the Philippines, used as a heavy-duty asphalt binder for airports, highways and racetracks.

BMW continues to lead the luxury car segment with record sales.

BMW sets sales records in September

THE BMW GROUP continued its successful course worldwide by delivering 118,173 BMW, Mini and Rolls-Royce cars to customers, for a 15 percent increase in sales in September.

Also this month, the BMW brand also recorded a considerable 17 percent increase in sales by delivering 98,200 automobiles—the highest number of sales in one month in the history of the company.

Sales success

BMW Philippines Corp. contributed to this substantial growth by delivering 92 cars in September, for an astounding increase of 109 percent compared to the previous mark last year. With this sales success, BMW's year-to-date sales figures are up by 22 percent, thereby maintaining its leadership in the luxury segment in the Philippines.

"Our results confirm that BMW is on a path of steady growth," said BMW Philippines Corp. president Dr. Joerg Breuer. "We are likewise optimistic regarding our sales in the fourth quarter of this year."

Dr. Breuer explained that the success of the BMW 3 Series, which continues to be the best-selling luxury sedan in the Philippines, was complemented by the entry of new models like the recently introduced X3 Sport Activity Vehicle. In addition, sales of every model in the wide BMW product range increased as well.

Customer-oriented programs

Aside from the appeal of its products, BMW's outstanding sales performance in the Philippines can also be attributed to the innovative customer-orientated programs it has introduced. BMW was the first to offer the 24-hour test drive, giving customers the select opportunity to experience firsthand the multiawarded 3 Series.

And as further confirmation of the low aftersales costs of its vehicles, BMW recently launched its Service Inclusive offer, which entitles 3 Series and 5 Series owners to comprehensive coverage of original parts and labor for scheduled and unscheduled services for 5 years or 60,000 kilometers. 3 Series owners can avail of free Service Inclusive as part of their purchase options, while 5 Series owners can register for Service Inclusive for only P30,000. Both offers are valid until the end of October.

Bosch gets Automechanika Innovation Award 2004

BOSCH'S new-generation wheel-alignment system was voted one of six outstanding innovations by the jury for the Automechanika innovation award.

The novel optical system was developed by Bosch with the support of BMW.

2 awards

Bosch will receive "Automechanika Innovation Award 2004" in the category "Repair & Automotive Services."

It will also be given an award for the "Universal Lambda Sensor" in the category "Parts & Components."

The jury

The jury selecting the Automechanika innovation awards consists of scientists, technical journalists and representatives associations.

It assesses products nominated from 12 countries for their innovation content, user benefit, quality and environmental compatibility.

Only products that meet the strict requirements receive the "Innovation Automechanika Award."

The novel, touchless, optically operated New-Generation Wheel Alignment System takes readings accurately and quickly while the car is on the car lift or just driving by.

Second award

Bosch's second awarded innovation, the Universal Lambda Sensor range accounts for more than 80 percent of the European market. It has the highest market coverage with only seven part numbers.

This is the fifth time that Bosch products will be presented with the Automechanika Innovation Award. At the last Automechanika in 2002, Bosch was winner in the product group "Autoaccessories" with the "Aerotwin" wiper system.

With expected sales of approximately 40 billion Euros in 2004, Bosch is one of Germany's largest industrial enterprises with a significant international presence.

It set up operations in the Philippines in 1995 with distribution channels and product support and service centers nationwide.

NISSAN Frontier

Analyzing the Frontier's DNA

WHILE A HUMAN body's most visible evidence of DNA is its skeleton, the Nissan Frontier's most visible evidence of its DNA can be found in its chassis.

The Frontier's chassis takes into account the collective mass of every part of a pickup and hold them together come rain, shine, pothole or speed bump without breaking down.

Designed as a closed-section ladder-type frame brace, the Frontier's DNA is made out of reinforced steel to withstand twisting during high-speed cornering, particularly at the frontmost and rear part of the frame.

The most obvious advantage of the Frontier's backbone material is its density. The thickness of the chassis' brace prevents the Frontier from bottoming out, or the tendency of a vehicle's middle portion to come in contact with the road, at speeds over 60 kilometers per hour.

Adding to the frame's strength are individually tuned rubber-chassis mounts placed throughout the brace, virtually eliminating road harshness at all chassismounting points.

Also, the Frontier's skeleton carries five crossmembers. Traditionally, most pickups have four crossmembers that straddle both longitudinal beams.

But with the Frontier, Nissan decided that an additional crossmember would be better for weight distribution, putting less stress on the frame due to the unsprung weight.

This part defines what a real pickup should be, the one part that can take the most abuse and ask for more without breaking or even bending. Given the Frontiers DNA, it is no wonder that it is the country's best-selling pickup truck for four years in a row.

Mercedes-Benz combines automobiles and fashion

TECHNICAL perfection, quality standards and pioneering impact have made Mercedes-Benz one of the world's most innovative car brands for over a hundred years. Countless car legends have made the three-pronged star become the most famous symbol of any car brand, denoting status and achievement.

In the continuing effort to be part of upscale lifestyles, the German car company has embarked on yet another novel feat—combining the worlds of automobiles and fashion. For some years now, Mercedes-Benz has been the title sponsor for the most famous fashion weeks in New York, San Francisco, Australia and Singapore.

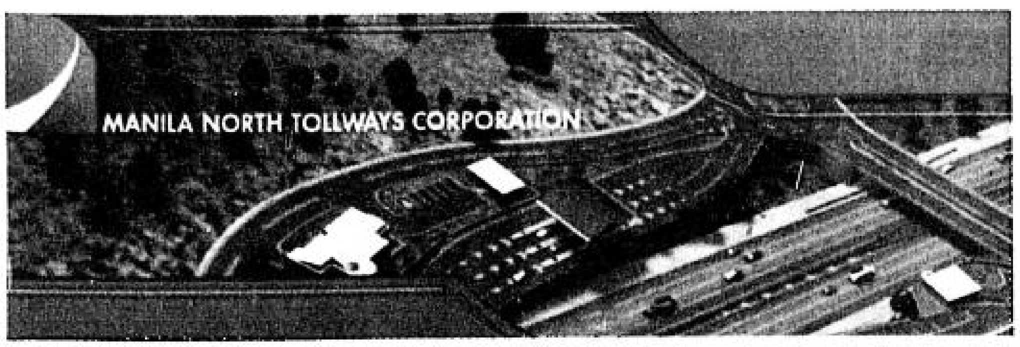
Patron of designers

Sharing the passion for design and timeless elegance, Mercedes-Benz has been a patron of established and aspiring designers, offering them a classy forum to showcase the latest trends. The Mercedes-Benz Fashion Week has become one of the most anticipated events on the international vogue scene.

The exciting interplay between made-in-Germany cars and fashions—Escada, Escada Sport, Betty Barclay, Laurel and Puma—was recently highlighted in the Philippines in the show billed "Awesome."

Living up to a reputation for ingenuity and innovativeness, the Benz state-of-the-art showroom together with the industrial backdrop of the workshop at the Bonifacio Global City was turned into the staging area for the fashion ramp.

Organizers of the event said the unique backdrop was just one of the show's many surprises. The Mercedes-Benz Fashion Show formed part of the kaleidoscope of events lined up for the "Germany … it's more than you think!" celebration. Organized by Fairs and More in cooperation with the German Embassy and ABS-CBN, Studio 23, ANC, Cinema One, Lifestyle Network and MYX, October has been declared German Month.



A BIRD'S eye view of the new NLEX

The P18-B expressway

ON THE ROAD

Aida Sevilla-Mendoza

IF YOU are driving north of Metro Manila this long holiday weekend, savor the low toll rates of the totally improved North Luzon Expressway (NLEX) while you can. When the Manila North Tollways Corp. (MNTC), a Lopez Group joint venture, takes over the NLEX on Nov. 30, the toll rates will jump by as much as 600 percent per kilometer for light vehicles.

Expect transportation operators and private motorists to protest when the MNTC starts charging P2.49 per kilometer for Class 1 vehicles (cars, jeepneys, pickups and minivans), P6.23 per km for Class 2 (buses, vans and two-axle trucks) and P7.47 per km for Class 3 (cargo trucks and trailers with three or more axles.) For motorists traversing the entire 80-km stretch, that means shelling out almost P200 per trip.

Although MNTC says that the majority of NLEX users will pay only P75 per trip based on the average traveled distance of 35 kilometers, the fact remains that those exiting at Angeles, a frequented destination, will have to pay P145 per trip. MNTC president and CEO Jose "Ping" de Jesus points out that only 7 percent of NLEX motorists who travel up to the last exit (Sta. Ines, Pampanga) will pay the maximum P200 per trip.

In exchange

Naturally, motorists want to know what they will get in exchange for their money. Forget all that stuff about accelerated economic development and increased tourism in Central and North Luzon since motorists in general are a self-centered lot. But promise them safer and more comfortable motoring, reduced vehicle operating costs and less time on the road because of smoother traffic flow, and they will agree to a higher toll rate.

The MNTC is spending P18 billion to transform the decrepit, 30-year-old, 84-km NLEX from Balintawak, Metro Manila to Sta. Ines into a world-class, state-of-the-art tollway. Is the first phase of its concession to rebuild, operate and maintain the NLEX for the next 30 years, MNTC resurfaced the entire stretch, built an additional 138 lane kilometers and expanded the road by adding new lanes.

The MNTC demolished the existing 91 toll booths and replaced them with 145 new ones, built and expanded four toll plazas (Balintawak, Bocaue, Dau and Tabang), erected four new interchanges (Marilao, Mexico, Angeles and Dau), widened 26 permanent exits and constructed a new flyover in Novaliches to speed up access to the tollway.

Computerized

As a world-class tollway, the new NLEX is equipped with computerized toll collection systems, variable pictogram signs, closed circuit TV monitoring, reflectorized lane markings, median concrete barriers to prevent head-on collisions, emergency parking areas, radio broadcast for expressway users, roadway lighting and portable weighing scales. All the toll plazas are connected by underground fiber optic cable to the Operation and Maintenance Center in Balintawak that houses the Traffic Control Room.

Talk about safer motoring: The improved road pavement and more efficient traffic management should significantly reduce road accidents. Aside from traffic enforcers equipped with cameras, radios and speed monitoring devices patroling the NLEX day and night, 14 strategically positioned cameras enable MNTC staff in the control room to monitor traffic 24/7 and to dispatch emergency response teams (tow trucks, ambulances or even a helicopter) when the need arises. Motorists can also go to any of the emergency phone boxes located every one kilometer from Balintawak to Burol, Bulacan.

Talk about comfortable motoring: The resurfacing of the entire 84-km stretch and the construction of new lanes have resulted in a smooth, seamless, pothole-free and wider expressway. Instead of the bone-jarring ride that motorists used to endure, traversing the NLEX is now such a soothing experience that you tend to take a nap if you are a passenger and wake up later at your destination rested and refreshed.

Reduced VOC

Talk about reduced vehicle operating costs (VOC): A study done by the University of the Philippines Planning and Development Research Foundation indicated that running costs including fuel consumption are reduced because of the smooth pavement and faster traffic flow on the new NLEX. Thus the depreciation of the vehicle and the effects of wear and tear are also lessened.

The UP study showed that Class 1 vehicles can expect VOC savings of P0.94 per km or P75.20 if you travel the entire 80-km distance. A Class 2 vehicle saves P7.44 per km in VOC on the renovated NLEX, or a whopping P595.20 if it travels from end to end. Similarly, Class 3 vehicles would save P5.04 per km in VOC, or a total of P401.60. Bottom line, the VOC savings will outweigh the higher toll rates, Ping de Jesus claims.

Talk about reduced travel time: De Jesus asserts that the improvement and expansion of the NLEX cuts travel time for the whole 84-km stretch to one hour from the previous minimum two hours. With improved traffic conditions, average speed will increase to 80 km/hr from the 60 km/hr of old.

The MNTC needs the Toll Regulatory Board's approval to collect the toll rates it needs to cover operating and maintenance costs, get a fair return on its P18-billion investment and repay the loans it incurred to finance the modernization of the NLEX. Now, don't you think that the new toll rates are justified?

* * *

TOYOTA ENTERS COTYP. After fielding the Altis in the first testfest for the Car of the Year Award, Toyota Motor Philippines Corp. will provide test units of the Camry, Previa and RAV4 in subsequent testfests. It also promised full participation in next year's Cotyp (Car of the Year Philippines) when it shall have more time to prepare a wider range of models. In last weekend's testfest with subcompact cars and minivans, the 1100 cc Kia Picanto attracted attention because it was the newest model there. The Car Awards Group takes a break this weekend to observe All Souls' Day.

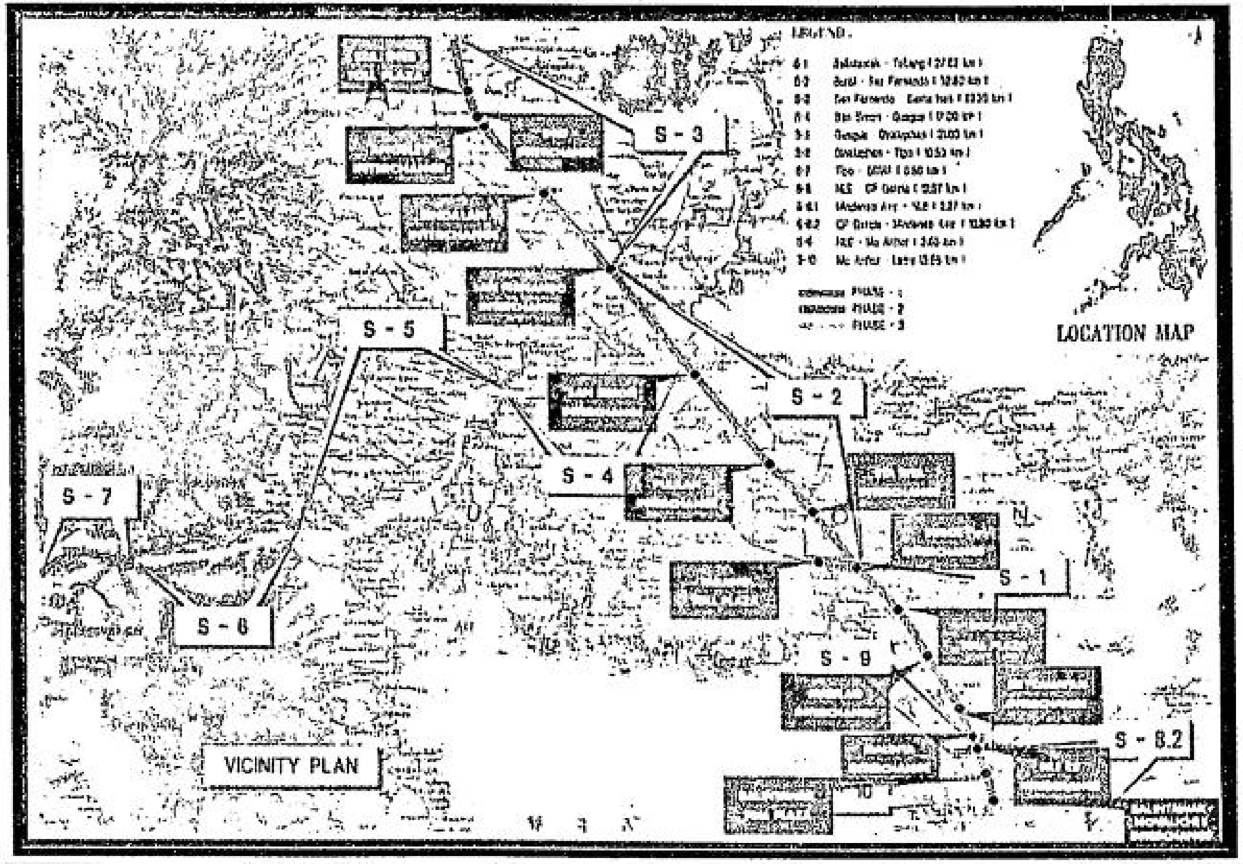
* * *

TODAY'S BUMPER STICKER: The main cause of divorce is marriage.

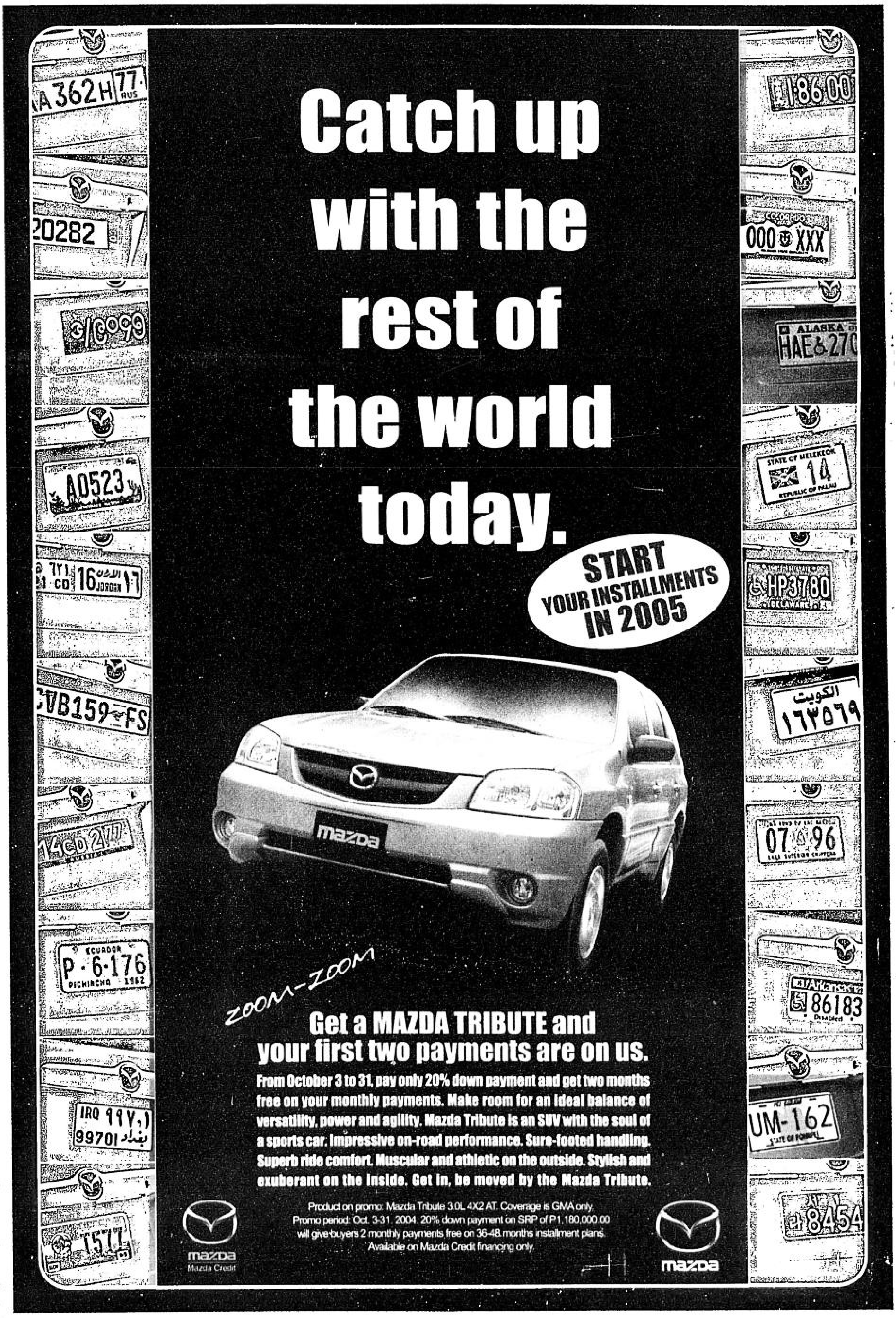
* * *

(E-mail comments to asevilla@inquirer.com.ph.)

NORTH LUZON TOLLWAYS PROJECT



THE NLEX road map showing new toll plazas and interchanges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Per DTI-NCR Permit No. 2311, Series of 2004.

R.P. HAS CAR OF THE YEAR
Seventeen of the 46 motoring writers and other motoring-related media personalities comprising the Car of the Year-Philippines (Coty-Philippines) in a recent oath taking with Transportation Secretary Leandro Mendoza. Now on its third of the six weekend testing and evaluating of vehicles via instrumented and subjective evaluation of the 2004 vehicle models in the country, Coty-Philippines hopes to improve the skills of motoring journalists in the country, set new benchmarks for the domestic auto industry in terms of design, innovation, safety and handling. With full backing of the Automobile Association of the Philippines, it will announce the Car of the Year 2004 at a glittering awards ceremony in February 2005. Finally, the Philippines has Car of the Year.

Automotive personnel shine in Auto Review safety run

AS IF racing for the best time was as important to them as leading sales charts, employees of car manufacturing, oil and other automotive-related companies took their fastest strides to the finish line in the 1st Auto Review 10K Run for Road Safety and Courtesy held last Sunday at the CCP Complex in front of Star City.

Toyota, Ford, Mitsubishi, Isuzu, Mazda, Asahi Glass and Total shone the brightest as they emerged among the top 10 finishers in the men and women categories of the 5K Sponsors Run with the participation of other companies. These are Caltex, Accel Sports Gear, Chevrolet, Honda Cars Phils., Nissan, Universal Motors Corp., Volvo, Red Bull, Carryboy, Manila Broadcasting Co., Manila Bulletin, Today and NBN4.

The Automobile Association Philippines (AAP) garnered a special award for the biggest automotive delegation.

Top 10

Toyota's Joel Alberto (22:58), Al Amoranto (22:59), Reynan Ilorca (23:55) and Raymond Goshi (24:01) registered a strong 1-2-3-4 finishing kick in the men's class with Noel Cerdeña of Asahi Glass Philippines checking in with 25:04 for fifth place while Mazda's Joel Mayuga occupied sixth place in 25:10.

Rounding up the rest of the top 10 list in the 5K Sponsors Run are: 7th and 8th placers—Toyota's Greg Falcon (25:35) and Mark Marcelo (26:21); 9th—Ford's John Vital (26:41) and 10th Toyota's Jimmy Hembra (27:19).

The women's side saw Areza Abundio completing a double by Toyota with her 23:11 for first place. Ford's Shyrell Ferre, the company's first lady forklift operator, finished second with a time of 30:37. Mitsubishi's Rose de la Cruz was third in 35:20.

Completing the ladies' top 10 5K Sponsors cast are: 4th—Total's Mariz Dominguez (37:17); 5th—Toyota's Vanessa de los Santos (39:00); 6th—Ford's Marilen Morales (43:33); 7th and 8th—Mazda's Cherylynn Bulaong (43:34) and Haydee Malate (43:35); 9th and 10th—Isuzu's Lea Punongbayan (45:21) and Timmy Naval (45:27).

The main 10K-distance run is endorsed by the Department of Education, the Metro Manila Development Authority, Philippine Sports Commission, Automobile Association Philippines, Car Manufacturers Association of the Philippines, Cultural Center of the Philippines, the Society of Philippine Motoring Journalists, Philippine Amateur Track and Field Association, Adz on Wheels and supported by dzSR Sports Radio, K-Lite 103.5, dzRH, Love Radio 90.7, Yes! FM and Blazin' 105.9 FM.

Other winners

Former national team mainstay Bernardo Desamito Jr. and Cristabel Martes, 2001 Southeast Asian Games marathon champion in Malaysia, copped first place with their 31:18 and 36:44 clockings, respectively.

Meantime, Rolando Piamonte (15:48) and Hazel Madamba (18:47) were proclaimed the fastest runners in the 5K Open while Richard Delfin (15:59) and Mary Grace Cruz (16:16), both 12-years old, captured the top spots in the 3K race.

Asahi glass trophies were awarded to all the top 10 finishers of the 4 race categories with additional cash prizes given to the top three placers. The 10K male and female champions also received a Carryboy mountain bike each.

Special guest

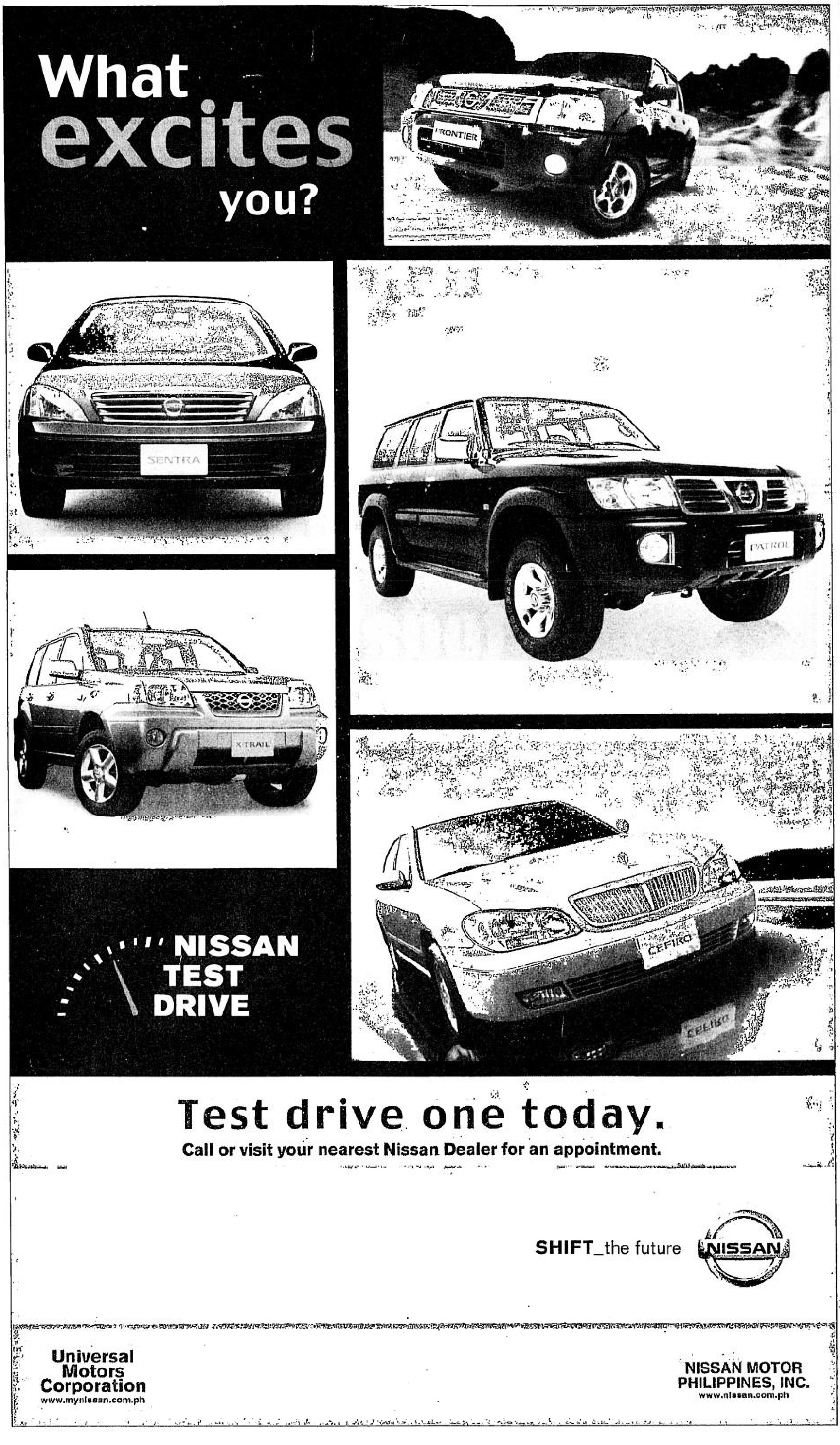
No less than World Health Organization representative to the Philippines Dr. Jean Marc Olive was the special guest during the awarding ceremonies. In his brief address, Dr. Olive congratulated the advocacy effort undertaken by Auto Review to promote road safety and the value of courtesy among the motoring public. He cited the Philippines as ranked seventh in the top 10 list of Asean countries that register the highest mortality rate due to road accidents.

"The Philippines needs more programs that advocate road safety for mass awareness. And this Auto Review Run is one such effort," said Dr. Olive who spearheaded World Health Day activities that adopted the slogan "Road Safety is No Accident" last April.

Side events

Sunday's run also highlighted other side events such as the well-received "Pera O Gasolina" road safety quiz sponsored by Total (Phil) Corp. and raffle of premium items from event sponsors, a road safety slogan-writing contest, and a car display on the latest models—Isuzu D-Max, Ford Lynx, Nissan Frontier—and the Red Bull Honda Civic converted sports racing car driven by multi-titled racer Mike Anton at the Subic International Raceway.

The staging of the advocacy run marked Auto Review's 10th year of service to the motoring public through the one-hour show hosted by veteran sportscaster and motoring journalist Ron de los Reyes and aired every Saturday from 1:30 to 2:30 p.m. over the National Broadcasting Network.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ISUZU N-SERIES

Five in a row for Isuzu; Tarlac's tricycles

FULL TANK

Al Mendoza

MY warm applause to Isuzu Philippines Corp. (IPC), the country's logistics specialist, for maintaining its dominance in the local truck sales for an amazing five consecutive years.

Take a bow, Art Balmadrid, Myrna Gonzales and Timmy Naval.

Year-to-date figures released by the Truck Manufacturers Association of the Philippines (TMA) showed Isuzu's light-trucks, the N-Series line or popularly known as the Elf, too tough a contender to beat for the No. 1 spot. The Elf topped the charts with a record of 514 units against the total industry light-truck sales of 846. That's a whopping 61 percent market share.

The N-Series trucks are known as tough, reliable and versatile logistics partner—a must for every start-up or expanding business. In addition, they have what it takes for a world-class performance. Owners can count on the N-Series, which is Euro 1 compliant resulting to clean-burning power, plus elegant styling and superb driving comfort. Low emission and fuel-efficient engines add versatility to these workhorses.

As Art Balmadrid loves to say, "And because it is powered by Isuzu's legendary diesel engine, no businessman can ever go wrong by choosing it as a long-term business partner."

Not to be outdone, Isuzu's F-Series, commonly known as the Isuzu Forward, remained a consistent top seller with a year-to-date 76 percent share of the total industry medium-truck sales.

Incidentally, Isuzu Motors Ltd. (IML) announced that for three consecutive years, Isuzu dominated all other manufacturers in the output of 6.1-16 ton medium-duty trucks within a single country—producing 65,468 vehicles in Japan and surpassing the nearest runner-up by more than 23,000 units.

Also, IML manufactured 86,354 trucks with gross vehicle masses (GVMs) of at least 6.1 tons (14,000 lb) in 2003, making the company the world's No. 1 producer of medium- and heavy-duty trucks in a single country.

Said Art Balmadrid, who is IPC vice president for Corporate Business Division: "Isuzu aims to be the consistent market leader in the truck category—with our dependable, hardworking and environment-friendly trucks."

Last August, Isuzu presented the grandest and biggest truck showcase ever staged in the country—the Isuzu Truck Attack.

Art added that with the positive response of the market, Isuzu expects to perform even better with exciting new offerings that will hit the market in the months to come.

* * *

TROOPER WINNER. Meanwhile, congratulations to Juliet Sarino, who won a 2005 Isuzu Trooper as her prize for buying an Isuzu Crosswind recently at the Isuzu dealership in Biñan, Laguna. Sarino is from 25 Ford St., Filinvest II, Batasan Hills, Quezon City. What a promo, indeed, from Isuzu. The Trooper, being Isuzu's premium SUV, is almost double the prize of the Crosswind. As usual, Isuzu's 1-2 punch, IPC president Yoshifumi Komura and EVP Kazuhiko Sho awarded the symbolic key of the Trooper to Sarino.

* * *

Some of the worst tricycle drivers you will find when you travel North are those in Capas, Tarlac, and Tarlac City.

There is a huge billboard by the bridge entering Capas coming from Manila that reads: "Capas, Paspas sa Kalinisan!" It should have also included this: "Capas, Paspas Ang Mga Traysikel!"

Most of the tricycle drivers in Capas are so undisciplined they race like hell in the middle of the highway, courting fatal disaster by the minute.

The billboard by the bridge has the face of the town mayor, Reynaldo Catacutan, whose turf I guess has more tricycles than persons. I have no beef with tricycles; it's those manning them with recklessness that I take issue with. Many of them—there will always be exceptions, you know—disregard traffic laws indiscriminately. Why, because law enforcers themselves tolerate them.

Aren't tricycles banned in highways in the first place?

How many fatal accidents have happened in our highways involving tricycles, not to mention the kuligligs? The kuliglig is used primarily to till our rice fields. Like tricycles, they are also a menace to society. You see them all traversing the highways leading to Ilocos and Cagayan Valley.

* * *

In Capas, tricycles, like kuligligs, love to occupy even the center lanes of the highway when they could travel trouble-free on the shoulder, which are paved anyway. Even if you honk your horns at them, they never budge. They are deaf as a convent wall. And worst, traffic enforcers there tolerate law-breaking tricycle drivers in wild abandon.

What happens in Capas also happens almost daily in Tarlac City, where tricycles are all over, outnumbering four-wheeled vehicles by almost 10 to 2!

I know. I go to Pangasinan almost weekly now. After a trouble-free, oh-so-smooth ride at the North Luzon Expressway, I grit my teeth each time I approach the town of Capas because of those undisciplined tricycle drivers—not to mention the traffic enforcers allowing such chaos to happen right under their noses. And after Capas, it's Tarlac City.

Help!

* * *

QUOTE ME. When traveling long distance, it is always best to check your tires and your tire gauge before leaving.

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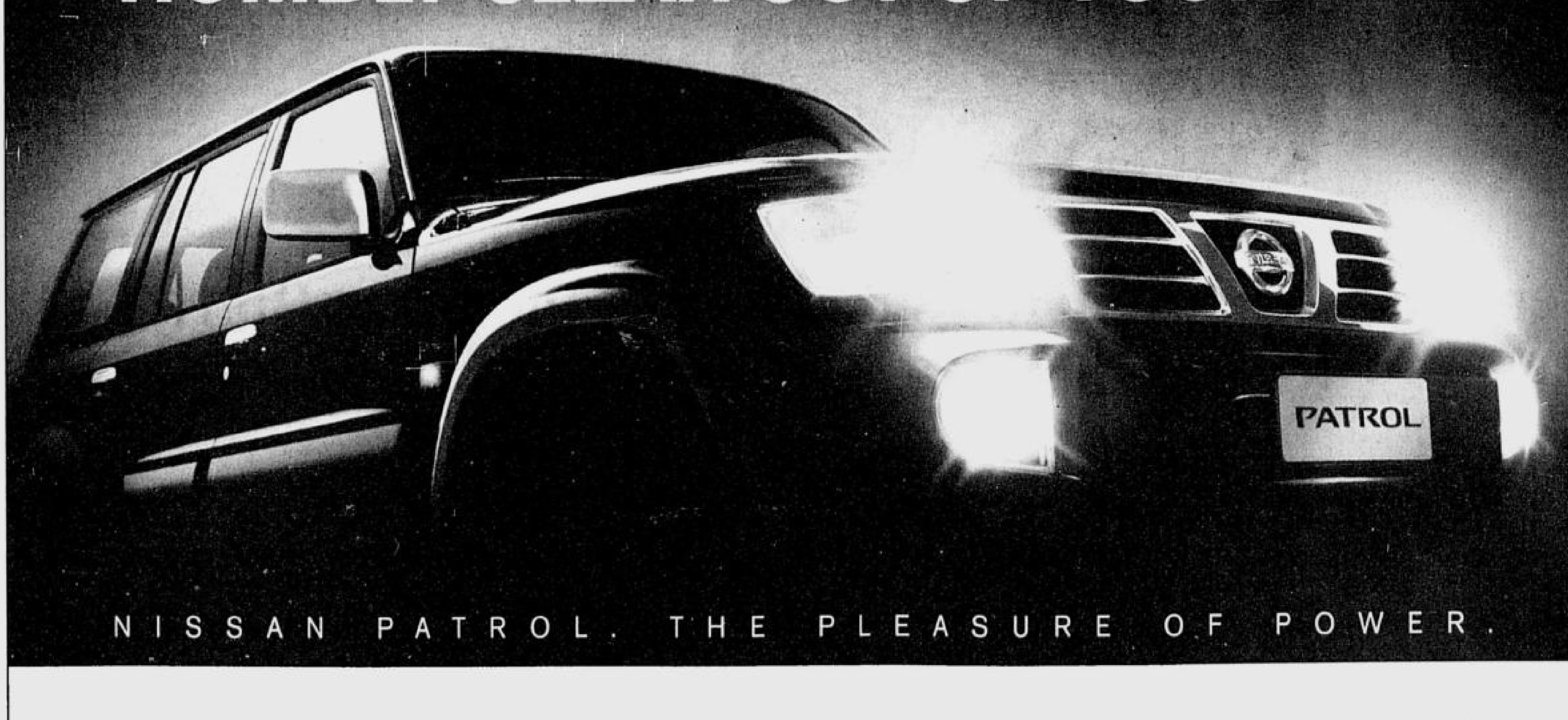

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'You have to get out there and try it on the road'

By Tessa R. Salazar

WHO wouldn't want to test a car before buying it? And why wouldn't manufacturers allow their cars to be test-driven by potential owners if this meant an increased chance of selling the car?

The international automotive business community has capitalized on test-drives to increase actual sales. Studies of test-drive promotions in other countries showed that car dealers have witnessed an increase in customer traffic by 26 percent coming in the showroom daily to test-drive new vehicles offered.

This increased interaction between car and potential owner is seen to have increased sales 6.2 percent.

Spelling the difference

Terence Hockenhull, international sales and negotiation consultant project director of the American Management Association, recently spoke at the joint Nissan and Universal Motors Corp. Test Drive campaign launch. In his talk, he quoted this figure to stress that test drives could actually spell the difference in car promotions.

Hockenhull is the chief designer for the Nissan test-drive project in the Philippines.

He realizes he has his work cut out for him here, though. Hockenhull said he observed test drive in the Philippines would just be an "afterthought" for some car assemblers. He further noted that some car dealers even went to the extreme—not allowing their test units to pile up mileage on the odometer reading.

If the car is meant as a test unit, then dealers might as well use it to satisfy the customer's curiosity, Hockenhull said.

Class biases

The Filipino society's class biases also surface at the showrooms. Hockenhull remarks of the sales staff's predilection for judging walk-ins by the way they look when they come into the showrooms. "They judge customers by their appearance, by what they are wearing," he said.

That is about to change, however, once Hockenhull's test-drive designs are practiced. "With the test-drive campaign, irrespective of what the person looks like, the car dealer's objective is to get as many people an opportunity to test drive as possible."

He added that prejudging customers would not help get as many people aware of the product as possible. Who knows, he said, the person in shorts and T-shirt could be a sweet-talking salesman with a very rich friend on the lookout for a car.

The lack of enthusiasm of salespersons on the showroom could also get in the way of the customer reaching for his checkbook, Hockenhull noted. There was one time when a salesperson didn't even bother to explain features that could have been otherwise adequately demonstrated.

Pilot runs

Nissan Motor Philippines made several pilot runs of the global Nissan Test Drive campaign at Nissan Westgate in Alabang and the Nissan Mantrade in Manila since Oct. 4. The campaign continues in all Metro Manila dealers and selected dealers in the provinces.

The Nissan Test Drive campaign first kicked off in Japan where the feedback among Nissan car buyers was positive. It will soon be launched in Europe and in parts of Asia. In Malaysia, the NTD started Sept. 22, and Taiwan launched its own on Oct. 23.

"After buying a home, purchasing a car is the most important for a Filipino family," said Hockenhull.

And with more cars being introduced on a more frequent basis, Hockenhull observed the parallel increase of brand awareness and choices among Filipino car buyers. According to Hockenhull, the competition is not all about just one or two manufacturers anymore. The bottomline may rest on how welcoming the dealers are to an eager but shy Juan de la Cruz.

Audi A4 Quattro: High performance with unlimited roadworthiness

THE AUDI A4 quattro is the sporty and top-of-the-line model in the A4 range. This car is outstanding for its unique combination of unmistakable style and sporting exclusivity, of individuality and versatility. A commanding performance adds to the unlimited roadworthiness of the Audi A4 quattro.

It is the only car in its class to have quattro permanent four-wheel-drive system. It can therefore convert its engine output into propulsive power most efficiently at all times and enter a new dimension of superiority. This enables the performance potential to be translated into reliable traction and driving enjoyment whatever the situation.

Safety and comfort

This system provides high levels of active safety, and dependable traction on virtually all surfaces as well as excellent road holding, even in cross wind. It is superior to manual all-wheel-drive systems because of this "permanent safety advantage."

The 6-speed transmission provides superlative form of driving comfort in line with quattro permanent four-wheel drive. The 6-speed gearbox has a 30 percent greater spread of gears than the five-speed version. The driver benefits from enormous agility and driving enjoyment with acceleration that is as harmonious as it is dynamic, without any interruption in the power flow.

With its low unsprung mass and self-tracking trapezoidal-link rear suspension, the lightweight aluminum chassis ensures outstanding driving dynamics. Good steering precision and exact handling complement the superior ride comfort of the Audi A4.

Powerful engine

A powerful yet economical gasoline engine provides the basis for excellent performance figures. The Audi A4 1.8 T demonstrates just how much power and refinement a modern turbo engine can have.

The 200 bhp version with 6-speed sports transmission reaches a top speed of 240 km/h and this power contributes as much to driving pleasure with its brisk acceleration from 0 to 100 km/h in approximately 7.3 seconds.

Sports appeal and individuality are also the characteristic features of the exclusive interior equipment of the Audi A4 quattro with its power sports seats, BOSE sound system and integrated in-dash 6-disc CD changer and 3-spoke sports steering wheel in leather.

Bold exterior

The strikingly bold exterior warrants nothing but undivided attention. The optional equipment package consists of high-quality, carefully matched components which have been specially developed such as the 18-inch cast aluminum wheels with its RS4 design wheels and the full body kit that includes the tailgate spoiler and the front, rear and side skirts.

The A4 quattro is the only car in its class equipped with Xenon headlights.

Indeed, there's something untamed inside the "Best Car in Its Class for 2004" according to the auto mund sport, Germany. Feel the awesome power of the A4 quattro and satisfy your driving passion.

Audi is available through its exclusive distributor, Auto Prominence Corp. with its showroom address at 2326 Pasong Tamo Ext., Makati City.

AUDI A4 Quattro

MAZDA Tribute

Own a Mazda Tribute, get 2 monthly payments free

THE ONLY SUV with the soul of a sports car is now within reach with only 20 percent down payment! Until Oct. 31, you can take home a Mazda Tribute 3.0 Liter with only 20 percent down payment on SRP 1,180,000 and your first two payments will be free for both 36-month and 48-month installment plans.

Made possible by Mazda Credit financing, this special deal makes owning the Mazda Tribute 3.0 liter easy for those who seek the soul of a sports car in an SUV..

The Mazda Tribute offers outstanding performance and comfort, as well as passenger-car-like agility and maneuverability. Moreover, you can experience impressive on-road performance, sure-footed handling and superb ride comfort packaged in a muscular and athletic design.

True embodiment

The Mazda Tribute is a true embodiment of the Mazda brand's DNA-distinctive design, exceptional functionality, outstanding aerodynamics and responsive handling and performance.

Its class-leading 3.0-liter V6 engine further contributes to the mix, designed to give it uncompromising power, acceleration and fuel efficiency, enabling drivers to truly experience the thrill of a sports car in an SUV.

The sophisticated and insightful design of this SUV incorporates a combination of refined, distinctive styling and a bold and athletic appearance realized within sensible dimensions.

Stylish, exuberant

It is available in steel silver, infinity black, palladium white and mercury gold. Inside, it is stylish and exuberant with passenger-car refinement in its abundant cabin space, outstanding visibility and unmatched passenger and luggage-carrying flexibility.

The vehicle's safety features are just as outstanding with Dual SRS Airbags, side-impact door beams, Engine Immobilizer and antilock braking system, with Mazda's revolutionary Electronic Brake-Force Distribution that varies the amount of front and rear breaking force depending on vehicle load.

For more information, visit Mazda showrooms located in Alabang, Greenhills and Quezon Avenue. Promo lasts until Oct. 31 only.

General Motors redefines luxury with the Chevy Optra 1.8L

FOR YUPPIES who are well on their way to reaching their career goals, a comfortable life filled with only the finest things is a worthy reward. Designer wardrobes, trendy gadgets and luxury cruises are only some of the things that are naturally desired as they serve as status symbols that reflect professional and personal successes.

Riding in the lap of luxury, literally, aboard an exquisite car is something every single career-oriented yuppie probably dreams of. After a hard day's work, hopping into a car that offers superb comfort and elegance is a treat: an indulgence that closes a taxing day and wonderfully starts an evening of fun and relaxation.

With luxurious features

Fortunately, cars that have luxurious features are now within reach of these thriving yuppies. The Chevrolet Optra 1.8L, recently introduced by General Motors Automobiles Philippines to the local market, is one such car that offers the best of both worlds—luxury and utility.

The Optra 1.8L is the luxurious edition of the best-selling mid-sized sedan Chevrolet Optra 1.6L which was introduced last year. It is a functional car that fits the active lifestyle of upwardly mobile professionals and now enhanced with features that can give luxury cars a tough competition.

GMPh aims to redefine luxury with the Optra 1.8L. The car combines quality, luxury and value for money, and simply represents the idea that the best things in life shouldn't cost an arm and a leg.

OPTRA 1.8L's understated sophistication

Affordable luxuries

"When people think of luxury, it always comes with a price as in a lot of money," says Nicky Mariano, marketing director of GMPh. "But luxury must not be made exclusive to those who are extremely rich. Anyone who's reached his goals, in one way or another, is entitled to luxury, and there are affordable luxuries," he adds.

ENJOY the ultimate entertainment experience provided by a Blaupunkt audio system with a 5-disc in-dash CD changer and six speakers.

Mariano said the Optra 1.8L was created to please the self-assured, smart individual who take his automotive investments seriously. "At an introductory price of P799, 000, the Optra 1.8L fits the young executives who are on their way to the top of the corporate ladder."

Monica, a 29-year-old financial management consultant who has recently acquired a black sapphire Optra 1.8L as gift to herself when she got promoted at work said she chose the car because it embodies "practical luxury." "When people see your car, they automatically gauge you as a person—how successful you are, what kind of lifestyle you lead, and what kind of taste you have," she says. "The Optra 1.8L has a certain kind of style that boosts my self-confidence."

The Optra 1.8L exudes a quiet sophistication that can only come from the expertise of Pininfarina, the famed Italian design house that has fashioned almost all Ferrari models. The car has alluring lines and super detailing; a see-through jewel-effect 4-element headlamps; crystal effect fog lamps and laminated windshield with solar tinted visor that creates that posh but unassuming personality.

Monica discloses that it's the understated sophistication of the Optra 1.8L that she was first attracted to. "It has a quiet elegance and it's perfect for a woman my age, status and resources. I also like it because it's roomy," she adds.

Underneath its elegant exterior, the Optra 1.8L boasts of power and performance. It has British-tuned suspension, and is loaded with the 1.8L 4-cylinder powerhouse that delivers 121 hp at 5,800 rpm and 165 N-m torque at 4,000 rpm. It guarantees a smooth, gliding ride as special care has been taken to reduce vibration with special engine mounts.

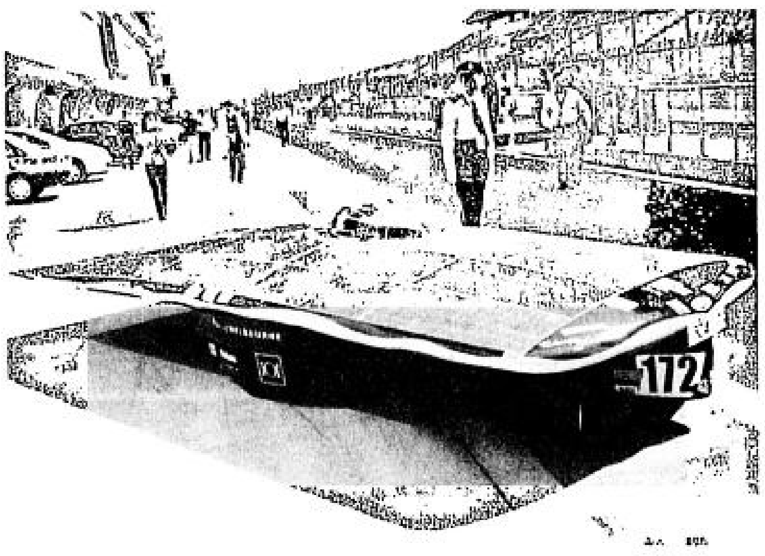
Inside the car, the seats are upholstered in the finest leather and the cabin panel is wood-finished offering lavish comfort and a subtle polished flair. Through the Total Noise Reduction System technology that blocks off external noise, the passenger is ensconced in a quiet, snug cocoon perfect while enjoying the ultimate entertainment experience provided by a Blaupunkt audio system with a 5-disc in-dash CD changer and six speakers.

Reliable utilitarian car

Apart from looking and feeling great, the Optra 1.8L is a reliable utilitarian car. It has substantial passenger and storage space that are signature Chevrolet characteristics, and first-rate safety features that include front-ventilated discs, rear solid discs, four-channel, four-sensor antilock brakes (ABS), and dual-stage airbags. That means the Optra 1.8L is indeed versatile and can be taken for daily drives to work, chic evening parties, or rugged weekend getaways.

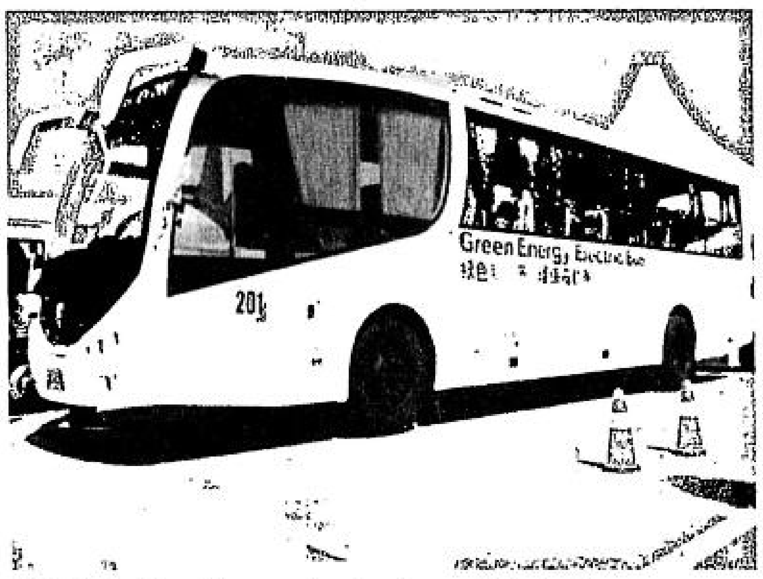
The Optra 1.8L is available in exquisite colors of black sapphire, astral silver, sandalwood and shanghai red.

SIDE and back view of OPTRA 1.8L



AN EXCLUSIVE entrant, the famous Aurora 101 solar car of Australia uses no fuel and produces no emissions.

WITH A GROWING population of vehicles, China now realizes the need to find clean and renewable sources of energy.



ONE of the electric bus entries that is now plying Beijing streets.

2004 CHALLENGE BIBENDUM

China tests the alternative energy path

Text and photos
by Charles E. Buban

(First of two parts)

THE ALL-NEW Shanghai International Circuit in China, which played host to its first Formula One Grand Prix last Sept. 26, entertained a very different field of competitors a few weeks after—zooming around its long straight and tight hairpins at a blistering... 70 kilometers per hour!

Although it is not the kind of competition one usually associates with a venue like this, the annually held Challenge Bibendum nevertheless deserves no less than the maximum exposure for its noble goal: provide the world with impartial information on the latest technological advances in the field of environment-friendly vehicles.

Said René Zingraff, one of the two managing partners of Mitchelin Group, the event's organizer: "This event does not set out to provide solutions, but to highlight the most significant advances. It helps understand via demonstrations, what the different technological fields are and how they fit into the global picture."

And for Zingraff, choosing China as the venue for this year's Challenge Bibendum (the event was already held thrice in Europe and twice in the United States) seemed appropriate since the country is in a stage of realizing the importance of developing clean cars.

Tremendous interest

Compared with much of the rest of the world, China is just beginning to experience an automotive industry boom.

It began in 2000 when China produced and sold over 2 million vehicles, then the figure grew to 2.37 million in 2001, over 3 million in 2002 and over 4 million in 2003, among which private cars were more than 70 percent.

Today, the country is now regarded the world's third largest automaker (after the US and Japan) and yet, China has decided to push to develop alternative fuels.

"China has shown tremendous interest. It has in fact, participated in last year's staging in California to realize the impact of a clean automotive industry," said Zingraff. "It was not surprising that the Chinese government has thrown its full support to bring Challenge Bibendum to their country this year," he added.

No stranger

China is no stranger to the dark side of its love affair with the car—dependence on imported oil, jampacked roads, cities awash in smog.

According to Dr. Gang Wan, acting president of Tongji University in Shanghai and member of Challenge Bibendum International technical committee, China is expected to experience a growing population of 8 million every year over the next 15 years.

To create job opportunities for this new population, China has to achieve an annual 6 percent GDP growth until 2020.

12 percent growth

"To accomplish the aim, China's automotive industry will need to achieve a yearly growth rate of 12 percent. In that sense, the country is expected to have 130 million vehicles by 2020, which will lead to an oil consumption of 250 million tons. That amount accounts for 60 percent of China's total oil demand," Wan revealed.

He added that China will need over 400 million tons of crude oil in 2020.

Said Wan: "However, only up to 170 million tons can be produced domestically. Therefore, finding new sources of energy, particularly renewable energy, is crucial. On the other hand, updating of the current available technology is also another good approach. In Europe, most of the vehicles are driven by clean diesel, which has less impact on the environment. China can learn from Europe in this sense."

Good opportunity

Wan believes that the holding of the sixth Challenge Bibendum event in Shanghai is definitely a good opportunity for China to learn from other countries spearheading in the development of clean auto sector.

He observed that while the fast development in the China's automotive industry will contribute to its economy and improve people's lives, it may also cause a dramatic increase in oil consumption and increased negative effects in the environment.

"It was only recently that China established and accepted the view that a vehicle is not only an industrial product but also a common commodity which is related to the daily life of the public," Wan said.

Indeed, the cutting-edge technologies that the the 2004 Challenge Bibendum brought may provide China with many good examples as this country tries to develop its own technology.

No. 1 event

Just five years after it was first launched, the Challenge Bibendum is now internationally recognized as the No. 1 event in promoting sustainable road mobility.

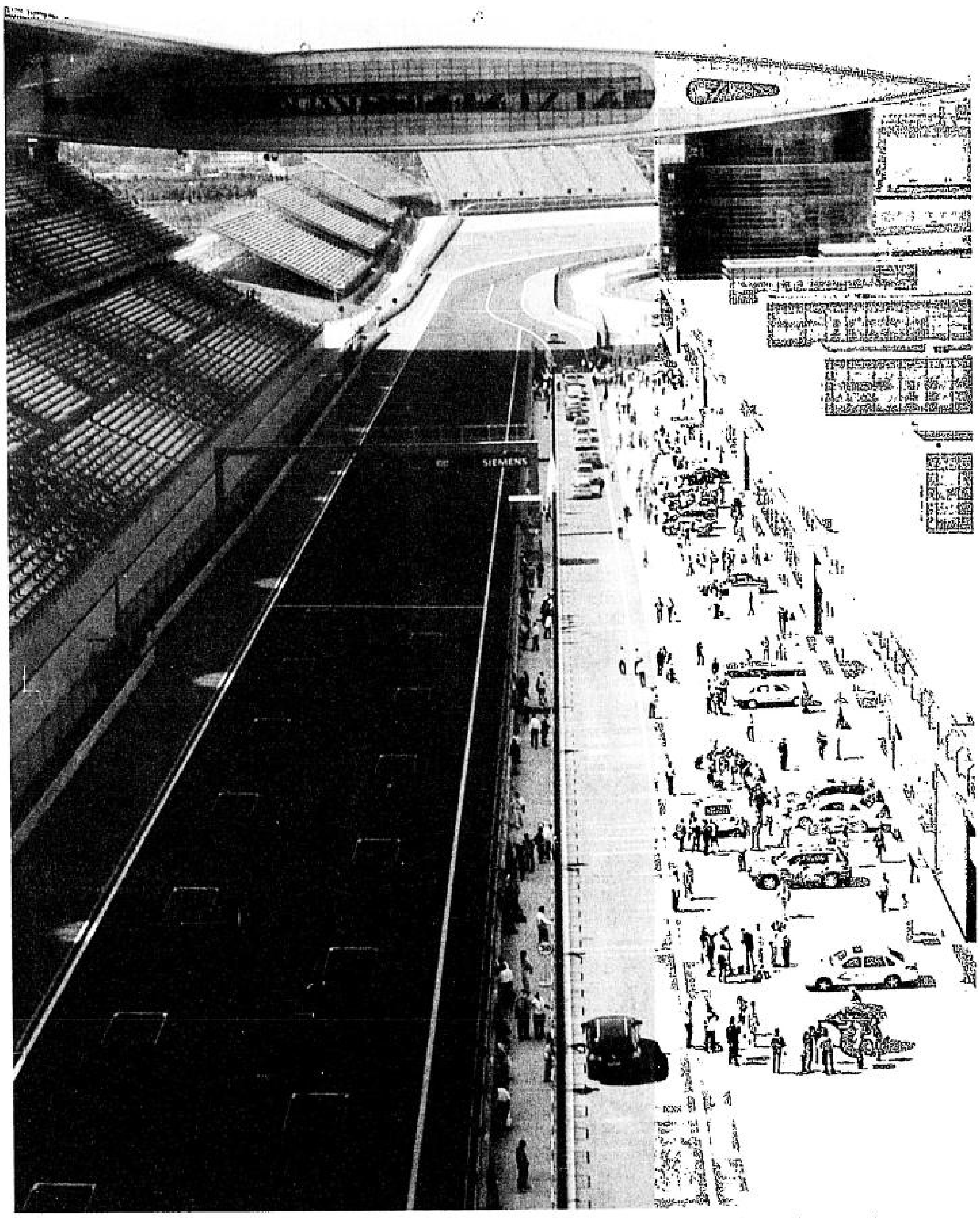
The contest between the different energy sources takes place within the framework of a friendly, but perfectly defined competition.

"The vehicles are evaluated in real driving conditions, using precisely defined criteria (choice of performances related to the environment and overall vehicle safety)," explained Grace Chee of Michelin Asia-Pacific/Michelin Asia.

This year, 74 vehicles competed in the race (out of the 150 vehicles presented) with more than 50 percent running on electricity (battery- or fuel cell-powered) while a significant number competed with internal combustion engines that uses biofuels.

China was strongly represented with 43 vehicles, including 15 buses.

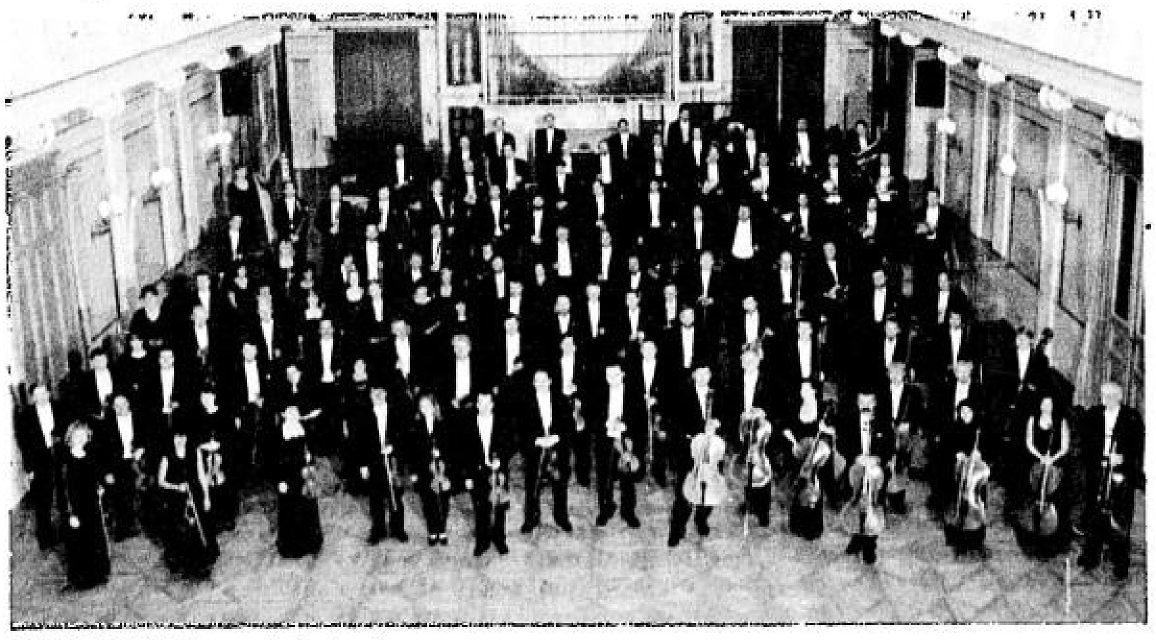
The bus entries were included since Beijing announced that starting this year, the capital city will implement the commercial demonstration of solely electric bus on most of its 121 bus lines in keeping with its "Green Olympic Games" theme (Beijing was chosen to host the 2008 Olympic Games).



THE NEWLY opened Shanghai International Circuit provides a fitting venue for the world's No. 1 event in promoting sustainable road mobility.

EUROPE'S PRIDE: They all use diesel with some environment-friendly modifications.

Toyota Classics at Teatro Aguinaldo



THE BRNO Philharmonic Orchestra

From page C8

came principal cellist of the San Francisco Symphony Youth Orchestra with illustrious Dutch conductor Edo deWart. He participated in various southeast Asian art festivals both as soloist and recitalist.

Lucas embarked on a concert tour of China with the PPO String Quartet in 1987. He pursued postgraduate cello and conducting studies in Germany as DAAD fellow. His recording of Bruch's Kol Nidre drew rave reviews and was recently released on CD. Another CD of Romances for the Cello by Filipino Composers is due for release in July.

The 2004 Toyota Classics is earmarked for the benefit of the Pondo ng Pinoy Community Foundation Inc. Manila Archbishop Gaudencio Cardinal Rosales, D.D, heads the project, launched last June.

The organization aims to fulfill the evangelical mission of the Church to bring the fullness of life to the less fortunate in the Philippines. This noble mission is done by encouraging families to save 25 centavos a day for future use.

Visit the Ticketworld outlets in major National Bookstore branches, Robinsons Department Store (Malate and Galleria), Tower Records (Makati and Alabang), Music Museum (Virra Mall, Greenhills). Tickets are also available on the Ticketworld website found at www.ticketworld.com.ph. Call 891-5610 for inquiry or reservation.

LUCAS

Toyota Classics at Teatro Aguinaldo

TOYOTA Motor Philippines, in cooperation with the Czech Embassy of Manila, will present the 15th Toyota Classics: A World of Harmony featuring the Brno Philharmonic Orchestra under the baton of Czech conductor, Leos Svarovsky. The concert will be held at the Teatro Aguinaldo on Nov. 10 at 7:30 p.m.

The orchestra will perform an all-Dvorak program, namely "Slavonic Dance No. 2" Op. 72 and Concerto for Cello and Orchestra in B minor B191, Op. 104, with cellist Renato Lucas as the soloist.

The program will be concluded with Symphony in E minor, Op. 95, "From the New World." It is a tribute to the Czech composer's centennial death anniversary, which is being observed worldwide. The Czech Republic, particularly marks this year as the Year of Czech Music in honor of Antonin Dvorak's artistic genius.

Orchestral tradition

Now on its 48th season, the Brno Philharmonic Orchestra carries on a great orchestral tradition established by the young Leos Janacek. With 115 musicians, the Brno Phil is one of central Europe's largest orchestras.

The orchestra has hosted some of the world's greats, from the legendary Charles Munch to Yehudi Menuhin. One of its most treasured performances was the concert performed at the Vatican in 2000 as the Czech Republic's gift to the Holy Father during the Great Jubilee Celebrations.

Guest conductor

Conductor Leos Svarovsky, early in his career, began serving as principal conductor of several excellent Czech and Slovak orchestras. Among these are the Prague Chamber Opera and Brno Philharmonic Orchestra.

Svarovsky has also been principal conductor of the Prague National Theatre ballet company and first conductor of the Slovak Philharmonic Orchestra. Currently, he is principal conductor of the Czech Chamber Philharmonic Orchestra of Pardubice, conductor of the Prague Symphony Orchestra and guest conductor of the Brno Philharmonic Orchestra.

SVAROVSKY

Cellist soloist

The principal cellist of the Philippine Philharmonic Orchestra (PPO), Renato Lucas currently teaches cello, chamber music, music history and music literature at the University of Sto. Tomas Conservatory of Music where he also serves as conductor and music director of the UST Symphony Orchestra.

He studied at the University of the Philippines and continued his musical studies at the San Francisco Conservatory of Music under Bonnie Hampton.

While a student, Lucas be-

TOYOTA/C7

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Editor **Chelo Banal-Formoso**
Chief of Correspondents **Pam Pastor**

Islander

Frightfest!

Greetings, reveler.

Thank you for picking up this week's 2bU!—your guide to this scary season.

If you're planning to celebrate Halloween with your friends, have:

- Creepy but yummy recipes for your Halloween party
- Urban legends and campus ghost stories you can retell to spook your friends out
- Terrifying faces and even more terrifying people to jumpstart your conversations
- Gorgeous costumes guaranteed to make you a standout.

If you'd rather stay at home, we have:

- Spine-tingling books you can curl up with
- Entertaining stories on astrology and a well-loved horoscope writer.

If Halloween isn't your thing, we have:

- A flashback of Sunday's VIP event
- PAWS, celebrities and the animals they love.

Enjoy!

SYEMPRE sa mga patay, pero sa mga buhay din.–Tutay, 15

THE CRUEL world out there.—Reden, 14

TAKOT ako sa ipis. –Sherry Yu, 20, has roach-killing chalk

2BU! SURVEY

What scares you the most?

Text and photos by
Niño Mark M. Sablan
2bU! Correspondent

IT'S spook season once again. When Goths become ordinary faces in the crowd, freaks are happier than ever and "Shake, Rattle and Roll" movies grace our television screens.

. Headless ghosts and crawling corpses in slow-mo may take center stage this time of year, but they're not the only ones giving people out there a scare. Check the answers below and see for yourself.

I'm most scared of creepy noise, quiet and spacious places plus the dark. –Arjuna Estrellado, 20

To see my mother die. –Erica Montezon, 19

Ghost stories, but I love watching movies with ghosts in them. –Dhang

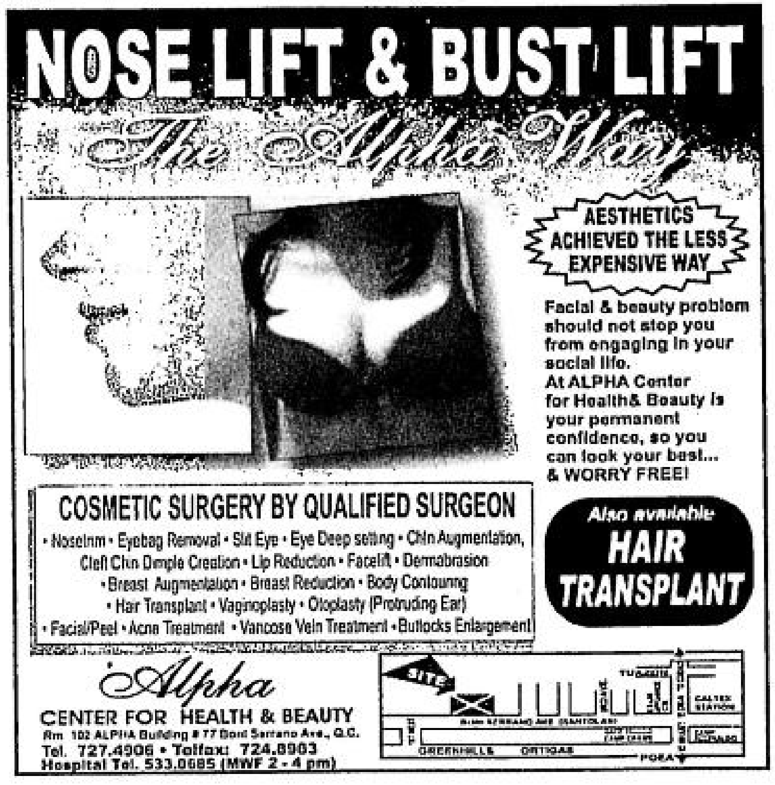
One time I saw my father smiling when I looked into the mirror, even if he had been dead for 17 years already. I'm scared of seeing him again in a mirror. –Gemmyca, 19

I'm scared of not having a partner in life. I have had relationships that ended tragically, and I think I won't have a

WHAT/D2

I'M afraid of *manananggal* and lions and headless ghosts. But I am very afraid of my father, in a good way *ha*!—Jasmine Bautista, 19, claims to be a daddy's girl

FAILURE. I don't want to fail in anything. I am also afraid of hurting other people. And the future , since I have no idea what it will bring me.—Marie Jean Riño, 21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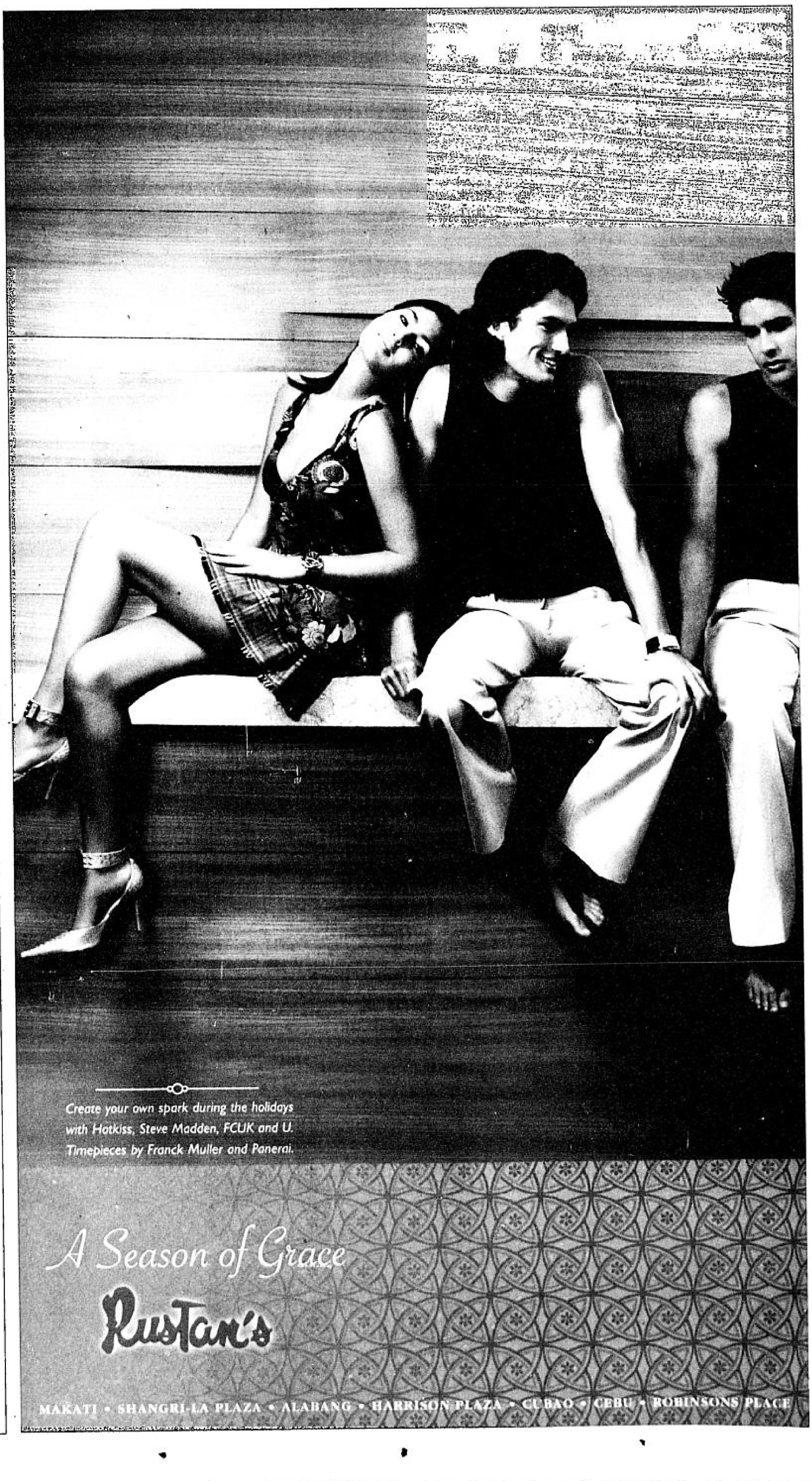
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Monster roster

Check out 2bU!'s top 10 most hideous characters of all time

By Angela V. Ignacio
2bU! Correspondent

THEY'RE the stuff everyone's nightmares are made of. Just a mere glimpse of their faces is enough to make you cringe, shriek or shiver under your bedcovers.

Well, you voted, we tallied, so be prepared for a major frightfest. Or a major laugh trip.

10. The Blair Witch

No, I don't mean the girl. For lack of a better photo, let's use this famous screenshot instead. The Blair Witch deserves honorable mention, because hers is the one face that manages to terrify everyone. Why? Exactly because she doesn't have any. She leaves everything to our imagination. As the saying goes, what people fear the most is the thing they can't see.

9. The Cryptkeeper, 'Tales From The Crypt'

Skeletons are permanent fixtures in any kid's nightmares. But the Cryptkeeper is especially scary because he moves, talks and still has rotting skin clinging to his bones. Ugh. Add to that his sick, twisted sense of humor, and you're all but ready to squirm. But don't worry, this old bag of bones is just a puppet operated by six puppeteers... or is he?

8. Michael Jackson

What's black and white and scares little boys? Yep, you guessed it. "Wacko Jacko" has been the butt of many, uh, colorful jokes, and his never-ending bizarre behavior has caused people to be wary of him. Take a look at this very unflattering mug shot. Not even his "Thriller" zombie costume can beat this one.

7. The Jackal, 'Thirteen Ghosts'

The Jackal is a fairly new but equally freaky addition to the monster roster. Dubbed "Charles Manson," this psycho literally shreds anything and anyone he can get his hands on. From the gruesome getup to the half-chewed metal cage wedged around his head, he looks so grotesque it's almost cool.

6. Madam Auring

She's no Cher, but she's taken the term "*retoke*" to new heights (or lows). Despite her "mystic powers," this fortune teller to the stars couldn't predict the frightened reaction of our readers to her surgical transformation. No offense, but we think she should've let nature take its course. After all, age is nothing but a number.

5. Pennywise the Clown, 'It'

Send in the clowns! Or not. My friends who are terrified of them have nothing else to blame but Stephen King's slasher movie. Tim Curry, who's barely recognizable underneath all that white makeup (and fortunately so), gave clowns a bad name with his razor-sharp claws and evil, evil laugh.

4. Marilyn Manson

He's every parent's nightmare, simply because he's the one person they don't want their kids to grow up to be (and look!) like. With his satanic songs and Gothic/demonic appearance, he has easily become an object of fear and contempt. But honestly, with all that cross-dressing, weird contact lenses and pale makeup, what's not to be scared of?

3. Linda Blair, 'The Exorcist'

She freaked your parents out when they were kids, and now she's back to give you the chills, too. After several trials and tons of makeup, the angelic Linda Blair was transformed into a perfectly hideous little devil. The makeup artists of the early '70s must be pretty darn proud of themselves.

SORRY JACK...CHUCKY'S BACK!
CHILD'S PLAY 2
15
CIC

2. Chucky, 'Child's Play'

Just when you thought your kids were better left at home with their dolls, here comes the nastiest, ugliest one to terrorize your homes. The trick to the psychotic killer doll's lifelike movements is that an actual midget gets into the Chucky costume and basically does the action scenes. Still, Chucky's evil expression alone is enough to give you major goosebumps.

1. Sadako

As far as all petrified couch potatoes are concerned, she's the mother of all scary faces. With only a white nightgown, Rapunzel-length bangs and an inhumanly large eyeball for a getup, Sadako set the bar high for succeeding horror flicks, Asian or not. It's no surprise that kids and adults alike are staying as far from their TV screens as possible.

E-mail the author at aoshi_no_miko@atenista.net

The scariest people to walk the Earth

By Javier Mata
2bU! Correspondent

A WISE man once said, "the scariest creatures are the ones without horns." In other words, the scariest thing about this world is that the true monsters aren't hideous demons—they are all shockingly human. Scary to look at? Maybe not, but just think... they could be as close and unassuming as your next door neighbor! In the spirit of the Halloween season, I bring to you the scariest people, both real and invented, to ever walk the Earth. These guys would remind you that the scariest tingles are the ones caused by human actions.

1.Ted Bundy

Theodore Robert Bundy was an American serial killer who, between 1974 to 1979, killed and in some cases, sexually assaulted numerous young women. After he was captured, Ted Bundy confessed to murdering 30 women but estimates put his total killings to as much as 100.

What makes the story of Ted Bundy so disconcerting is the fact that he does not fit the image that we normally associate with a "homicidal maniac": He was attractive, self-assured, popular and successful with the ladies. He could pass as one of the college hunks girls swoon over.

Somewhere along the way, this fascination with women, especially those who had dark, shoulder-length hair parted at the middle, led him to a series of grisly murders. He was even a wily man, managing to escape from prison twice and charming his way out of court, a far cry from the insane killer we are used to seeing.

He was executed in 1989.

2.Jack the Ripper

By today's standards of crime, Jack the Ripper would barely make the headlines, murdering a mere five prostitutes in a huge slum swarming with criminals in the late 1880s. Why then is he the most well-known serial killer of all time?

Because the story of Jack the Ripper is as compelling as it is scary. Not only is the case an enduring unsolved mystery that professional and amateur sleuths have tried to solve for over a hundred years, but the story has a terrifying, almost supernatural quality to it. He comes from out of the fog, kills violently and quickly disappears without a trace. Then for no

THE SCARIEST/ D4

'Takot ako!'

Campus ghost stories are legion. Here are a few standouts

By Christian B. Bautista
2bU! Correspondent

SCHOOL is not just a place where painstaking years of work are exchanged for a diploma. It is also, often enough, a good place to hear a scary story or two to knock one's socks off. See if you've heard any one of these famous tales.

Red eyes

One evening, a female professor of the University of the Philippines was stranded on campus because of a heavy downpour. Unable to go home, she asked the guards if they would let her spend the night in Benitez Hall. Because of the building's notoriety for being haunted (a reputation based on rumors that it was used as a Japanese interrogation camp during World War II), the guards allowed her to occupy a room but locked the door behind her. Curious if the countless stories she heard about the place were true, the professor looked through a small hole in the wall to see if there was anything happening outside. Oddly, the woman saw nothing but the color red.

The next day, she inquired if the stories were indeed true. "Yes, it is," answered one of the guards. "People who saw the ghost said it was dressed in white and had big red eyes."

Homecoming music

A few years ago, a grand alumni homecoming was held at the De La Salle University campus. It was a night of celebration as old-timers relived their prime in their old stomping grounds. But the night of revelry quickly turned to horror as the guests got a reminder of the location's darker times.

In honor of the countless lives lost during the Japanese Occupation, an air raid siren was set off as part of the program. Immediately after this, music was heard from the St. La Salle chapel. Surprised, the organizers of the event decided to check out the source of the sound. They found nothing.

People speculate that the spirits of victims killed by Japanese soldiers inside the chapel in 1945 were just making their presence felt.

Scene stealer

One night, a number of students performed a play in the Little Theater at St. Scholastica's College. During the play, friends and relatives of the actors took photographs as souvenirs. When films were developed, a nun was seen with the students during curtain call.

The nun was floating, had no face, and had her hands clasped as if in prayer. Also, her neck looked like she had been hanged.

Hanging around

A student from the University of Santo Tomas College of Engineering got out of class to go to the bathroom. The comfort room he entered had a reputation for strange occurrences, but he didn't believe in such things so he didn't mind going in alone.

When he finished doing his business, he went to the faucet to wash his face. Once done, he straightened up—only to feel something hit the back of his head. When he turned around, he saw a woman hanging from the ceiling.

Retro party

The University of the Philippines-Los Baños' Baker Hall is the stuff of legend. Its reputation for being haunted is well documented, especially since there have been several TV and print stories about the strange happenings inside its walls.

But mostly, its notoriety comes from one story. A few years ago, a group of students passed by Baker Hall late at night to find it bustling with a unique party. Most of the people in the gathering had retro clothes on, probably dating back to the '80s. The group joined in and had such fun that they decided to invite their friends. When they got back, Baker Hall was deserted—barren and dark.

What scares you the most?

From page D1

good partner who will understand and accept me. –Bernadette Eclarinal, 21

Not having a good future. That's why I'm doing my best in school so I can graduate and have a good job. –Maria Theresa Basalla

Being lost in the wilderness, being all alone and eaten by piranhas, being thrown to the lake of fire, losing loved ones. –Analyn S. Morit, 21

Giving birth. –Laarni F. Guba

I know it's kind of juvenile to be afraid of death at my age, but I do admit that I'm very afraid of dying. The pain, the uncertainty—and the possibility that I won't like my makeup when I'm already inside the coffin. –Ria, 22

Losing my partner and undergoing surgery. –Ybeth Ojeda, 20

Heights. –Katrina B.

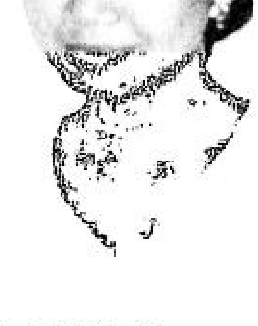
Giving birth and crawling insects. –Karen Diane Cruz, 22

My biggest fear for now is failing to graduate this year. I have no problem with my major subjects, but I have back subjects. My parents expect so much from me and I don't want to disappoint them. –Tessa Elumba, 21

I'm scared of what the future will bring me. –April Rose Garcia, 20

Dami eh. I got this fear of MMDA patrolmen in uniform, or getting my car stolen. *Dapat ba* monster? –JR Victorio

I AM scared of God. I am God-fearing. –Jasmine Mate, 21, not afraid to die



THE *ASWANG* that I saw in my province when I was younger. I'm afraid it will come to Manila because it misses me.—Ipe, 15, doesn't miss the *aswang*

I AM scared of myself the most because I am very unpredictable. I sometimes regret my actions but I guess I just have to be more careful the next time.—Euanne Sarmiento, 20, afraid to get fat as well

BEST COPY AVAILABLE

URBAN legends

By Saleema Devi Refran
2bU! Correspondent

URBAN legends are scary tales passed around usually by word of mouth, but now also increasingly through e-mail and texting. These stories are endlessly told and re-told, acquiring numerous versions and nuances in the retelling. Here are some famous local tales.

These stories don't die, they just morph into new versions. Ever heard of these shockers?

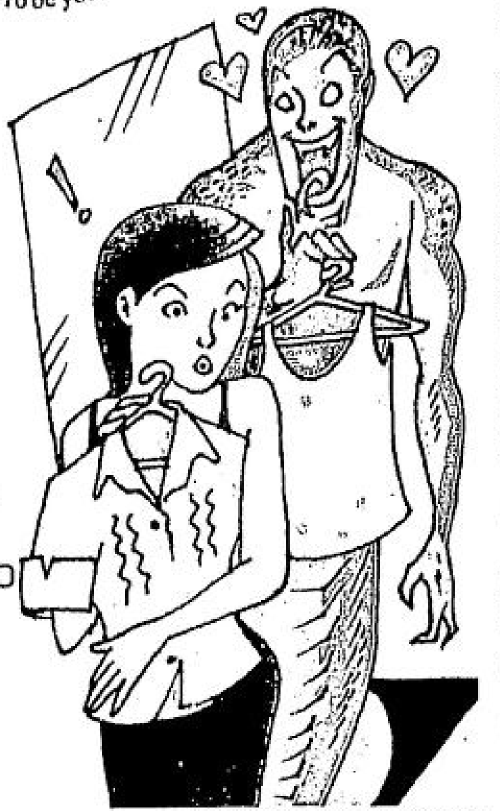


ILLUSTRATION BY ALBERT G. RODRIGUEZ

Snake twin

Allegedly, a businesswoman has a snake for a twin. This snake twin is said to be the secret to the family's fortune and success. The snake twin is said to be in human form but with scales all over his body. He has no bones, and is supposedly housed inside one of the family's chain of shopping malls.

That particular mall is said to have a series of tunnels underneath where the snake twin waits. The mirrors in the ladies' fitting rooms are one-way mirrors which the snake twin uses to pick out his next victim. A trap door opens, the victim tumbles in, and the snake has his feast. A certain actress was said to have seen this snake-man when she tried on a dress in one of the fitting rooms.

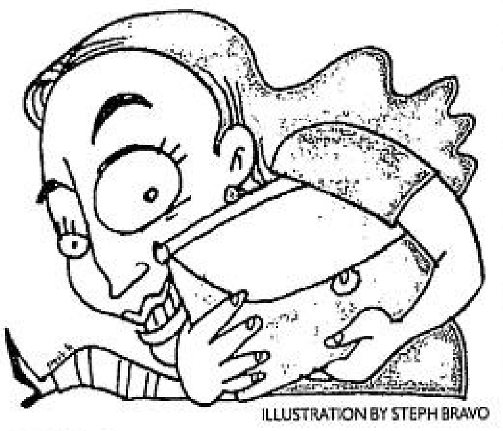


ILLUSTRATION BY STEPH BRAVO

Acid lady

A crazed lady is said to wander the streets of Manila with a bottle of acid in her bag. She walks up to pretty women and throws the acid at their faces.

Another version says an unstable lady splashed acid on the face of her sister out of anger and jealousy. She is said to have received psychiatric care, but was discharged and is now roaming the streets ready to wreak havoc again.

Food for thought

Miaow
StephB.

STEPH BRAVO

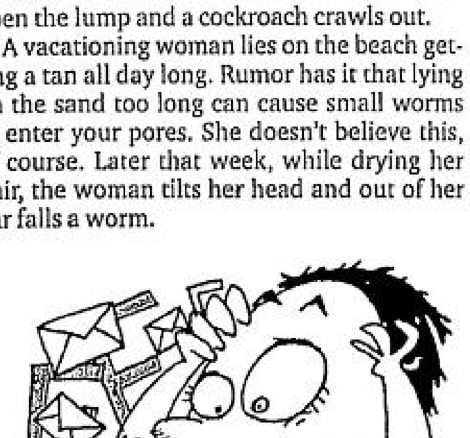
A number of popular food items are said to be unsafe or tampered with. A Pinoy food chain is rumored to be using worms instead of beef in its burgers. Its chief competitor, on the other hand, is using *sayote* instead of apples in its apple pies.

How about these? Pieces of a dead man are in soft drink bottles, while the other brand has glass shards in its bottled drinks. A big fried chicken chain serves not breaded chicken but rats, and makers of *siopao* don't really use pork but cat meat.

Insects galore

Insects are finding different ways to get into our system, or so the stories go. A woman sealing envelopes for a living uses a sponge to wet the envelopes. One day she decides to use her tongue. A few days later, she notices a lump growing in her tongue. It gets so big she decides to have it checked. The doctor cuts open the lump and a cockroach crawls out.

A vacationing woman lies on the beach getting a tan all day long. Rumor has it that lying on the sand too long can cause small worms to enter your pores. She doesn't believe this, of course. Later that week, while drying her hair, the woman tilts her head and out of her ear falls a worm.



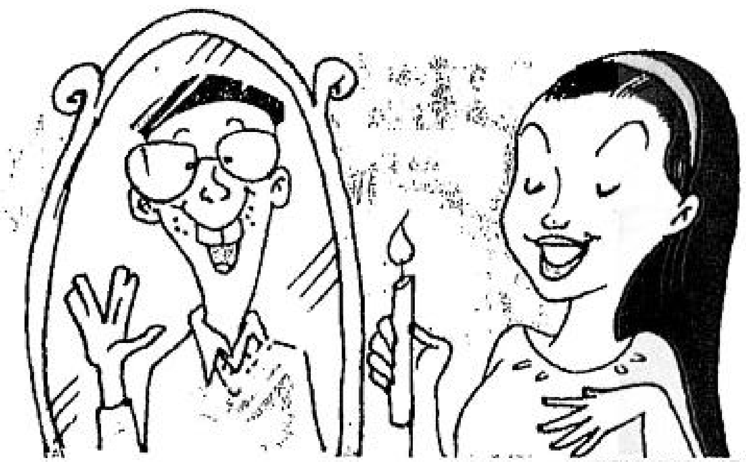
STEPH BRAVO

AIDS scare

People were cautioned about watching movies in a certain movie house in the mid-'90s, because a crazed HIV patient was said to be putting infected needles in theater seats with messages like "Welcome to world of AIDS."

Future mate

This is a tale tied to witchcraft. It is said that to find your future mate, place a lighted candle in front of a mirror and look at the right side, where the face of your future mate will appear. But never look at the left side of the mirror, though, for it's the face of the devil that will appear.



ALBERT G. RODRIGUEZ

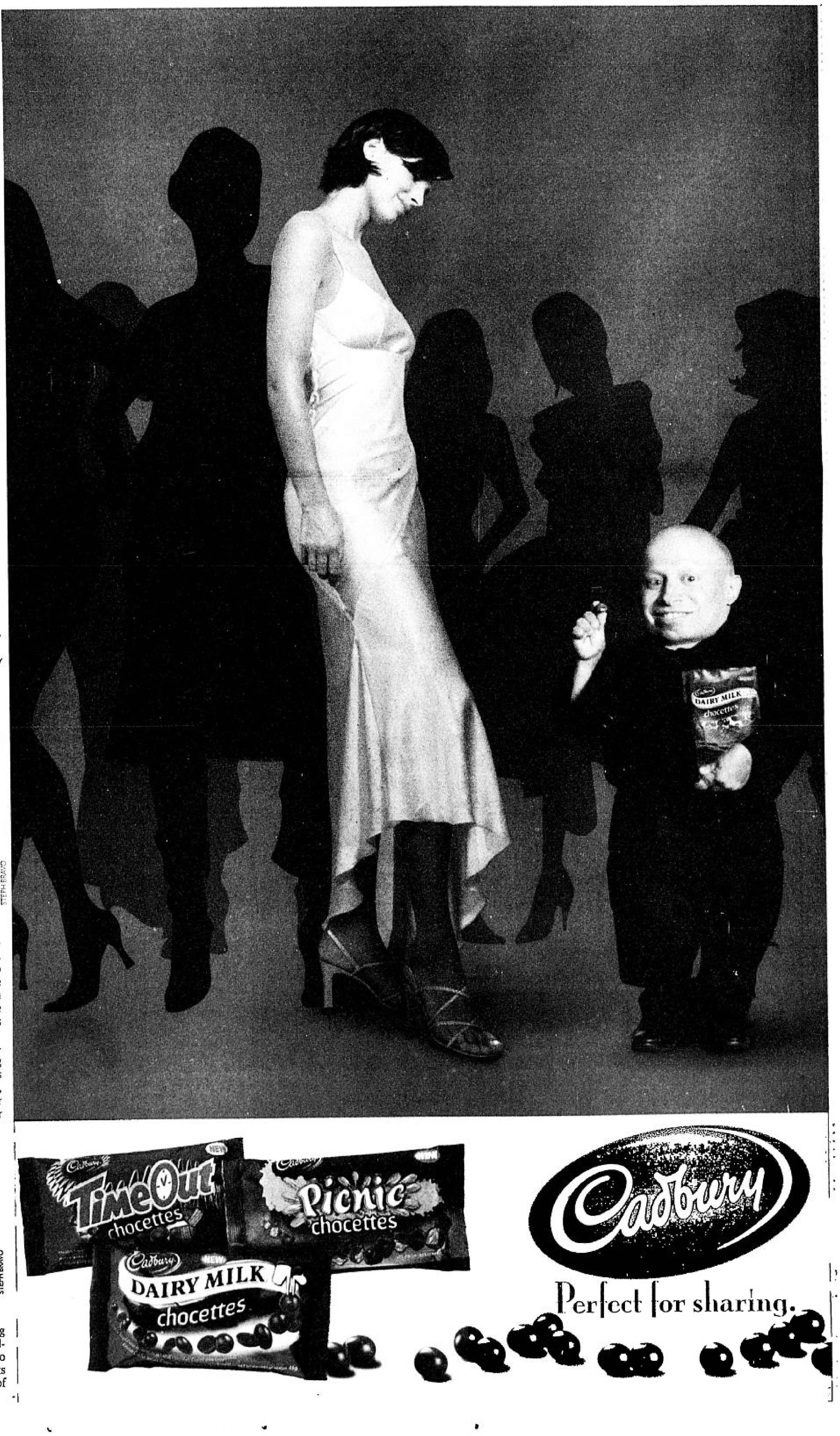
Blood for the structure

Superstition says that in order to strengthen the foundation of a bridge or a road, human blood must be mixed with the cement. The more blood is mixed, the stronger the structure becomes.

Another version says new roads should be avoided, since it hasn't had its fill of new blood and a lot of accidents can still happen.

ALBERT G. RODRIGUEZ

Share some more scary stories with the author at s_a_l_e_e_m_a@yahoo.com.



Someone to watch over us

CAROL Servano

JORGE Madiao Jr.

LOIDA Reyes

By Arlene M. Paredes
2bU! Correspondent

THERE is no death—no death, but only change/And innovation; what men call birth/Is but a different new beginning; death/Is but to cease to be the same."

—From: "The Doctrines of Pythagoras"

I asked a paranormal practitioner about his beliefs on death, or what happens after a person dies. He said, "There is no death, just transformation."

On the other hand, the Catholic Church, according to lay minister Boy Cruz (of the Nuestra Señora de Candelaria Parish, Silang, Cavite), believes the spirit of the dead proceeds to purgatory to be cleansed of their sins hence, we pray for them so they may have peace in the presence of God.

Essentially, there is life after death both for the paranormal practitioner and the lay minister. So, I thought to myself, if this was the case, how have my parents changed since they passed away?

How do young adults cope with the loss of a loved one, and how do they remember them on All Souls' Day?

No time for grief

I asked a number of young adults who had lost parents or grandparents how they coped with the loss, and how they remember their loved ones on All Souls' Day.

Loida Reyes, 24, a former administration assistant, says that after her father died of a sudden heart attack over a month ago, she found no time to truly express her grief, as she had to be strong for her mother and two elder sisters.

"It was really difficult. I really tried not to cry during the wake because I wanted my mom to see that I was okay, that we'd be okay."

She often goes to the cemetery with her mother and sisters, and there they recall fond memories of her father. "I know that he is with the Lord right now and watching over us."

Emily Telmo, 24, a former research assistant, says she always talks to her father as if he were still around. "*Alam ko naman palagi ko siya kasama.*"

When a big brown butterfly flutters around her, "I talk to the butterfly as if it were my father, transformed into another form, greeting me in his own special way," she says. It's a belief she got from her elders.

Jerick Javier, 19, a Nursing student at the Polytechnic University of the Philippines, says he grew up without his father, who spent much time working abroad. But when his father died, Jerick still felt devastated.

"But thanks to my mom's strong personality and strong faith in God, I've understood and accepted that we will all die someday, and those who remain must learn to move on," he says, adding that, "Up to my dad's last minute, he was telling us how he loved us so much. I know he has always loved us, and that's enough for me because I know that despite the distance then and now, we were and are never truly separated from one another."

Jorge Madiao Jr., 19, also a Nursing student at Emilio Aguinaldo College, recalls that his father died of liver cirrhosis Dec. 14 last year. The pain was made so much worse by the fact that the family would be incomplete on Christmas, which was barely two weeks away.

"Honestly, I'm still grieving. I would say I do have resentments against the hospital where he was confined. Maybe it's just natural to think there were some things that could have been done to help him. I just felt so helpless then," he says. But Jorge knows he should move on. "I just tell myself that he is happy right now, working abroad and helping us."

Chen Rojas, 23, an IT Researcher, lost her grandfather barely a month ago. "He was 82, and although I'd really like to be grateful that God gave my grandpa a really long stretch of time to spend with us, I must admit I still wish he were around, watching the daily news with us."

"*Laging si balita 'yun, eh.* He always read the newspaper in the morning, so there are days when I wake up and expect him to be on the dining table, reading the latest headlines. I guess every morning will be like that," she says.

"Still, I know my grandpa is at peace right now. Our family members have always been very close to each other, and we always show how important we are to each other. I'm sure Lolo knows we will keep him alive in our hearts."

Carol Servano, 20, a college student at De La Salle University-Dasma, remembers her grandmother every time there's ice cream on their table. "She was so easy to please, but I especially liked seeing her happy whenever I bought ice cream for her," she says. "I guess a part of me will always believe that she's just around. I guess that's the only way for us to be not bitter about a loved one's death."

Just abroad

Well, I can relate to these testimonies. I've lost both my mom and dad, but I sometimes think that my father is just abroad, and my mother will go home late at night tired from doing her work.

I will not say pretending is the key to moving on. But we do need to comfort ourselves from time to time, especially when the pain and the loneliness get too difficult to handle. So we just cling to the memories of our loved ones and realize that, yes, somehow they're still with us.

On her deathbed three months ago, my mother told me, "I'm leaving so I could watch you 24 hours a day." She does now.

With contributions from Jorge Madiao

E-mail the author at lhen@postmark.net

The scariest people to walk the Earth

From page D2

apparent reason, he satisfies his blood lust with ever-increasing ferocity, culminating in the near destruction of his final victim, and then vanishes from the scene forever. The perfect ingredients for the perennial thriller.

3.Rasputin

Grigori Yefimovitch Rasputin is one of the most mysterious, notorious and disputed figures in Russian history.

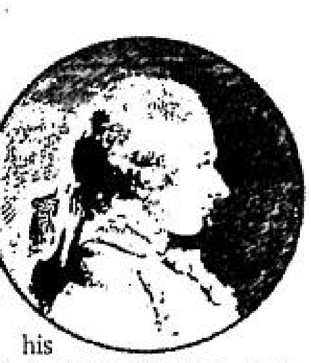
Who was this man who seemingly had strange powers and a mysterious influence over others? Did Rasputin have supernatural faculties, as he claimed? Or was he merely a charismatic madman who had a mastery of hypnosis?

Rasputin's rise to preeminence under the aegis of the royal family was due to the fact that he had "supernatural powers". He was the only one who could heal the heir to the throne's hemophilia, and seemed to be able to compel people to do as he wished (scholars attribute both phenomena to hypnosis).

Even his death was eerily unnatural... Rasputin was fed poisoned cakes and wine by his enemies, but these did not affect him. He was then shot at point-blank range and Rasputin collapsed on the floor.

Later, as the killers inspected the body, Rasputin suddenly regained consciousness and started to throttle one of the assailants. They then proceeded to shoot and bludgeon him, then bound him and tossed him into the river. When Rasputin's body was found, his bonds were broken and his lungs were filled with water, showing that he didn't actually die until he was submerged in frozen waters (scholars argue about how Rasputin could've done these feats).

4. Marquis de Sade

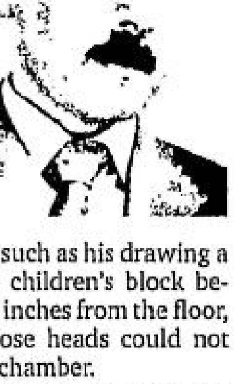


The Marquis de Sade will always be known as the most perverse of perverts (The term 'sadism' came from him).

Shortly after his wedding in 1763, he began living a scandalous libertine existence and repeatedly abused young prostitutes and employees of both sexes, later with the help of his wife. A series of scandals and imprisonments followed. It was during his time in prison that he wrote his "literary contributions". De Sade's works contain explicit and often repetitive descriptions of rape and a great number of sexual perversions, many of which involved violence and constantly pushed what was considered "tasteful". He also advocated a hedonistic lifestyle and the rejection of all moral and ethical rules.

As if his writings and lifestyle weren't sick enough, he also began an affair with twelve-year-old Madeleine Leclerc of Charenton. This affair lasted some four years, until de Sade died in an asylum in 1814.

5. Josef Mengele

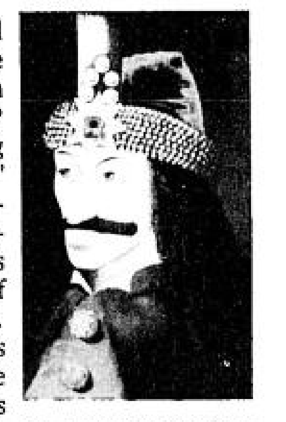


The Holocaust brought out a number of monsters. Many of the German officers carried out the killings of the Jews with evil indifference. No one personified this evil more than Joseph Mengele, known as the Angel of Death. Mengele was an avid supporter of the systematic killings of the Jews and took glee in it, such as his drawing a line on the wall of the children's block between 5 feet and 5 feet 2 inches from the floor, then sending those whose heads could not reach the line to the gas chamber.

Mengele was most notorious for doing the unthinkable: he performed scientific experiments on live human beings in the interest of "scientific discovery". Josef Mengele, a geneticist, took particular interest in twins.

Mengele was almost fanatical about drawing blood from twins, mostly identical twins. He is reported to have bled some to death this way. Mengele injected chemicals into the eyes of children in an attempt to change their eye color. He did both physical and psychological experiments, surgeries without anesthesia, transfusions of blood from one twin to another, isolation tests and reaction to various stimuli. He made injections with lethal germs, sex-change operations, the removal of organs and limbs and incestuous impregnations. He did all these without feeling a single shred of remorse or pity.

6. Vlad Tepes



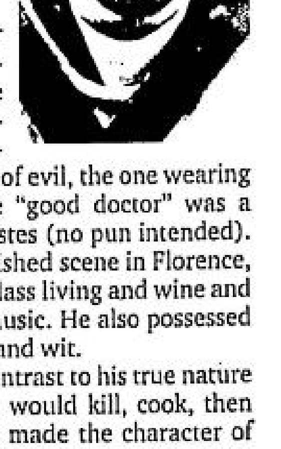
Ah yes. What would a list of scariest people be without the man who inspired Dracula? More than anything else, "Vlad Dracul" was known for his inhuman cruelty. Impalement was Vlad's preferred method of torture and execution.

Impalement was (and is) one of the most gruesome ways of dying imaginable, as it was typically slow and painful. In fact, Vlad became an expert on impalement, finding ways to slowly skewer his victims without killing them too quickly.

He also turned it into his own "art," often arranging the impaled victims in geometric patterns. It was this practice that led people to call the execution sites as the "Forest of the Impaled".

Even during his brief period of imprisonment, Vlad found ways of practicing his gruesome hobbies. In his prison cell, Vlad would catch small rodents and birds and impale them using small forks and little spears.

7. Hannibal Lecter



Okay, so maybe I'm kind of cheating here since, technically, Hannibal Lecter is a fictional character. But Hannibal Lecter has indisputably become one of the most feared cannibals to grace the pages of a book.

Created by author Thomas Harris, Hannibal Lecter became the poster boy of terror because he represented the worst kind of evil, the one wearing sheep's clothing. The "good doctor" was a man of impeccable tastes (no pun intended). He loved the distinguished scene in Florence, Italy, preferred high-class living and wine and listened to classical music. He also possessed uncanny intelligence and wit.

This was in stark contrast to his true nature as a psychopath who would kill, cook, then eat his victims. What made the character of Hannibal Lecter an effective arch-villain is the fact that he gets what he wants using his brilliance. He would often brainwash or "suggest" to people so they would do his wish, and often found ways of outsmarting his enemies.

Perhaps this is why he is a popular contemporary villain. It is a lot scarier and compelling to chase an elusive enemy and be outsmarted than it is to be chased by an enemy and be outsmarted.

GUYITO WILD HUNT

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Written in the Stars

By Catherine Young
2bU! Correspondent

I AM a Gemini. Sign of the twins. I was born at 7:15 p.m. at the Manila Doctors Hospital on June 3, 1983.

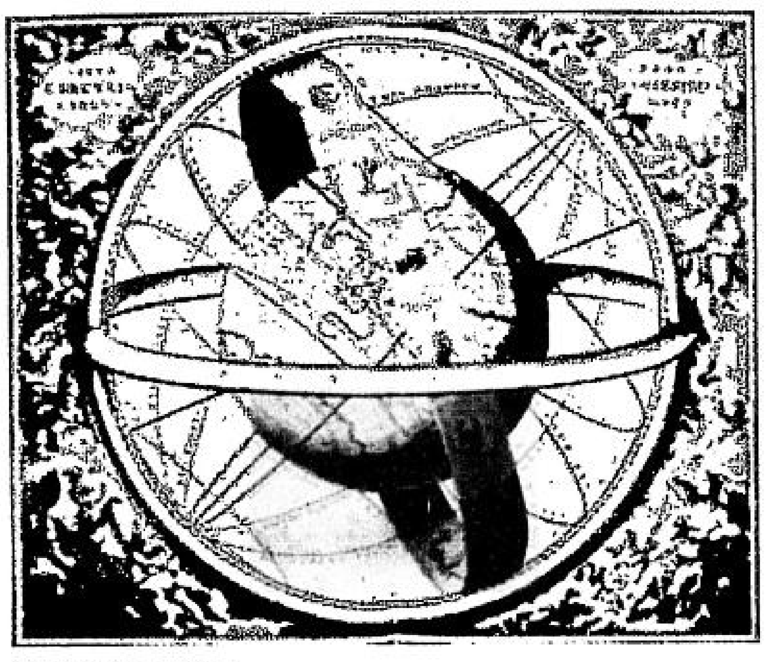
I know that writers, lawyers and performers often belong to this category. I know that Geminis are "adaptable, versatile, communicative, witty, intellectual and eloquent."

I know that between the dual Gemini personalities, I am supposed to be the more extroverted one. This, I think, is due to my being so high on coffee that I hug everyone, even strangers.

I know that as far as relationships go, I have highest affinity for fellow Geminis and Aries, and that I am supposed to stay away from Sagittarians.

But I don't believe in astrology. I never have. Why my relatively passable knowledge of my corner of the zodiac? In a word, it's fun. It satisfies my desire to see some signs, no matter how trivial or untrue, of a grand design for the world.

To paraphrase Shakespeare, our fates lie not in heavenly bodies, but in ourselves


MAPPING the fates

I admit I sometimes read my horoscope, but I do it just to see if anything in it does happen. I make it a point to read it only after my day has ended, because that's when I think the reading stops becoming self-fulfilling. In the lab where I'm doing my thesis, it has become a ritual to read our hilarious Libre horoscopes, which often provide a needed breather from our experiments.

Power of creation

Religion is the primary reason why I do not believe in astrology. As a Catholic, I was taught to pray for solutions to problems, for enlightenment, for understanding. Stars are a sign of God's power of creation, not a means to calculate destinies. To believe in the stars is tantamount to idolatry. For the strictest of worshippers, astrology is a sin.

And yet, despite the predominance of Catholicism in this country, nearly every Filipino probably knows, at the very least, his zodiac sign.

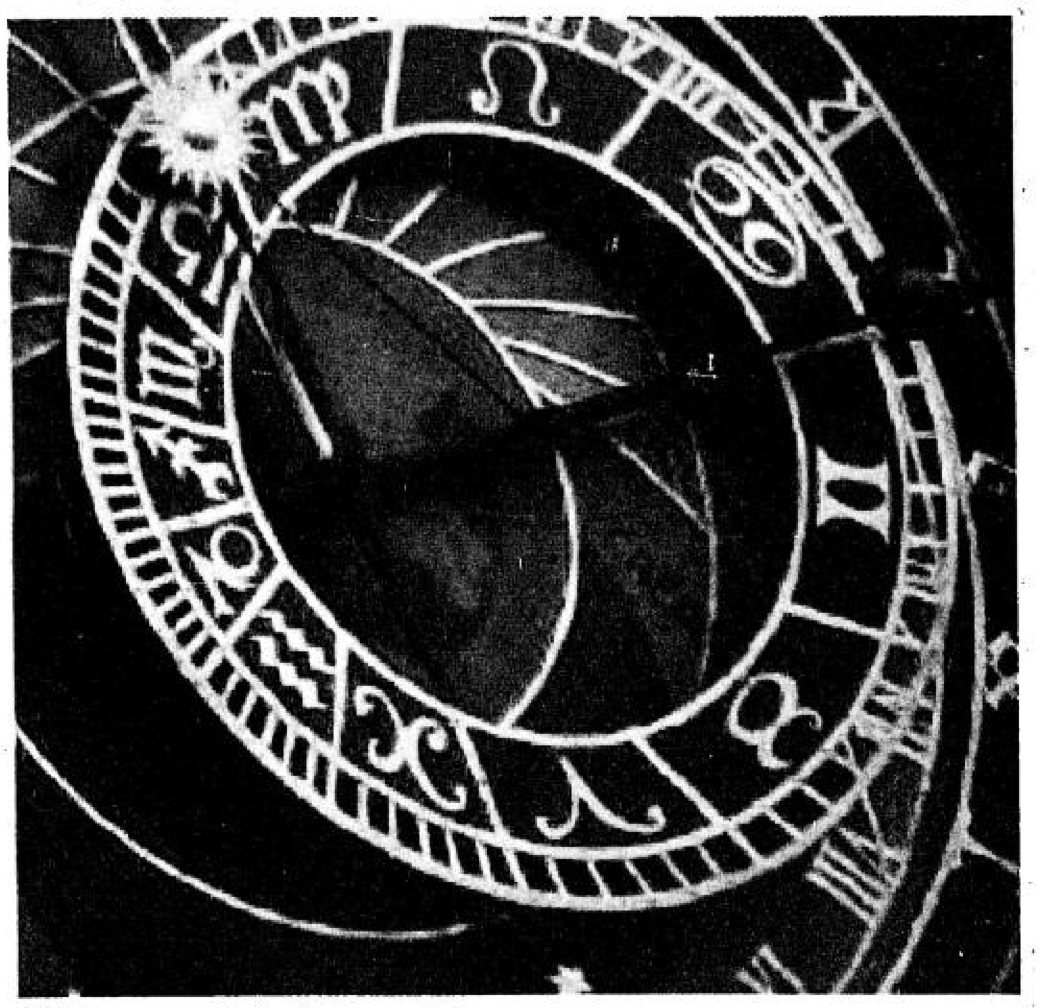
Fatalism is arguably what accounts for our lack of progress as a nation. We see this attitude in the way we deal with everyday things. Instant wealth through lottery numbers, instant degrees through six-month education programs, instant employment through popular yet short-term jobs—all these reflect how fast we want the solutions to appear.

And yet as far as fatalistic countries go, astrologers would probably point out China as a counter-example. For a nation deeply in thrall to feng shui, China is remarkably and enviably progressive.

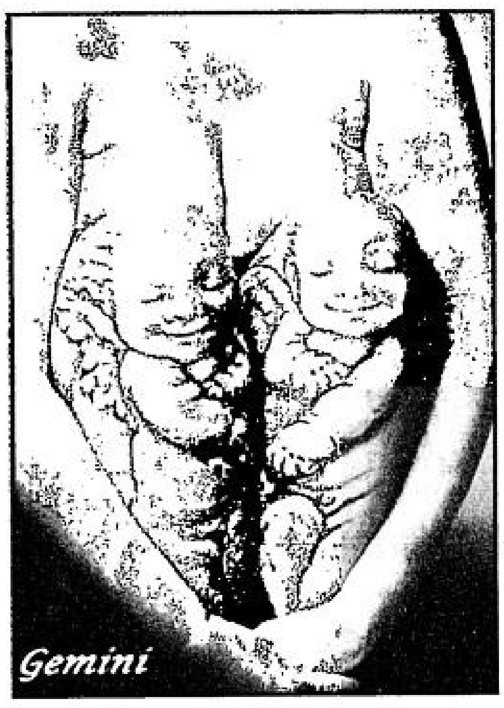
Eternally disputable

As far as science goes, astrology is nonsense, a field devoid of logic and reason, and eternally disputable. Because "readings" are interpreted differently by people and are often too general to constitute anything more than mere coincidence, astrology is considered, at best, a game.

Being a student of science has further conditioned me to dismiss astrology. The foundations of everything I have learned the past four years have all been supported by experimental proof, painstakingly gathered and analyzed. Although many of us believe the answers to many of life's most fundamental questions are probably out there, we also don't think we can get them by scavenging the sky for vibrations of celestial bodies.


AND the compass shall point to your destiny....

Some time ago, I was surprised to find out that Kary Mullis, a 1993 Nobel Prize laureate for his invention of the polymerase chain reaction (a method I have had to desperately repeat dozens of times in the past year), was a believer in astrology. For a scientist (one of the pioneers in my field, in fact) to openly say that was unusual, to say the least.


Gemini

In his book, "Dancing Naked in the Mine Field," he titled one of his chapters "I am a Capricorn." And he wrote, "I began to think about astrology in the mid-1960s after three strangers had correctly classified me as a Capricorn. The probability of that happening by chance is 1 out of 1,728."

Then again, this is a scientist who does not believe in global warming despite all evidence so far to the contrary.

Self-made destiny

Maybe astrology's inherent difficulty is also what makes me loath to embrace. All those latitudes and longitudes, alignments of the stars and planets, eclipses of the sun and the moon... It's like calculus all over again, only this time you have to look up at the heavenly bodies instead of down at your textbook.

But I think many of us don't believe in it largely out of principle. Because we believe we are what we make of ourselves, not what some stars have decreed for us. To accept astrology feels like accepting the box that the constellations have laid out for us, that we have certain limitations that our will cannot overcome, that we can never do more than what we are celestially equipped to do.

To believe that our fates have been predetermined only says we are incapable of doing things greater than ourselves.

E-mail the author at cathy_young1@yahoo.com

Shaman, seer and jester

How a former UP student ended up writing INQUIRER Libre's famous Pinoy-inflected horoscopes

Text and photos
by Catherine Young
2bU! Correspondent

BURIED in the pages of Libre every day is a much-anticipated section: the horoscope.

With love predictions that read "*Hindi siya mukhang kabayo; amoy lang*," and career forecasts like "*Huwag tumabi sa* fax machine," it is no wonder that this daily horoscope has gained an avid following in the past three years.

The man behind these hilarious predictions is Romel Montemayor Lalata. Once a BS Civil Engineering student of UP Diliman, he left the college because of "too many left-wing activists and late nights of Dungeons and Dragons" which he said took a toll on his grades.

He decided to take up Philippine Studies instead after noticing the lack of research in Philippine history. He soon realized, however, that he wanted to study the Philippines up close, not within the four walls of the classroom.

Lalata dropped out of school altogether and lived independently. Because of his skill in writing, he became the assistant editor of INQUIRER's online edition in January 1998, eventually becoming its online editor until August 1999 when he resigned.

He then worked for a Hong Kong-based finance magazine as a financial technology writer and the content manager of its website. But in August 2001, he got an offer to join Libre, and he jumped at the chance.

His increasingly popular work on the horoscopes eventually attracted the attention of Cesar Cosme of Bubble Gang, who invited him to work for the gag show. Now, he's been with the program for two years.

To keep his horoscopes fresh every day, Lalata says he needs a gamut of ideas and a good ear. "It's important that you commute," he notes. "*Hindi ka magta*-taxi, you ride a jeep, you walk, you listen to people's conversation, *mamalengke ka.* I don't have a car; *naglalakad ako* just to hear flashes of conversation. So *lahat ng mga ito*, inspired *'yan* by real experiences *ng* real people—yung comments *ng mga tao* who don't have to watch what they're saying."

AND now I'll show you the five-point palm exploding heart technique...

An avid reader of science fiction and fantasy, he also turns to books for his predictions. "I have references—books by Linda Goodman (Love Signs), references *sa* Internet. The problem is that when you're reading horoscopes from the United States, it's so American, not for Pinoys."

That's where his funny bone comes in, transforming these alien predictions into quintessentially Pinoy vignettes.

"Sometimes when I run out of ideas I fall back *sa* books *na may seryosong* horoscopes. [I repeat predictions] *lalo na kung gahol na sa oras. Pero kung masaya ako, kung inspired ako, if nasa* MRT for example, *nagsusulat ako* or [I save it] sa cellphone."

"As much as possible, *gusto kong* original, *pero minsan kasi ang hirap mag-isip dahil* I've been doing it for almost three years. When I encounter a new experience, *marami akong natututunan*. So I go out, I talk to people, I look around. So a lot of the stuff there are also my personal experiences," he adds.

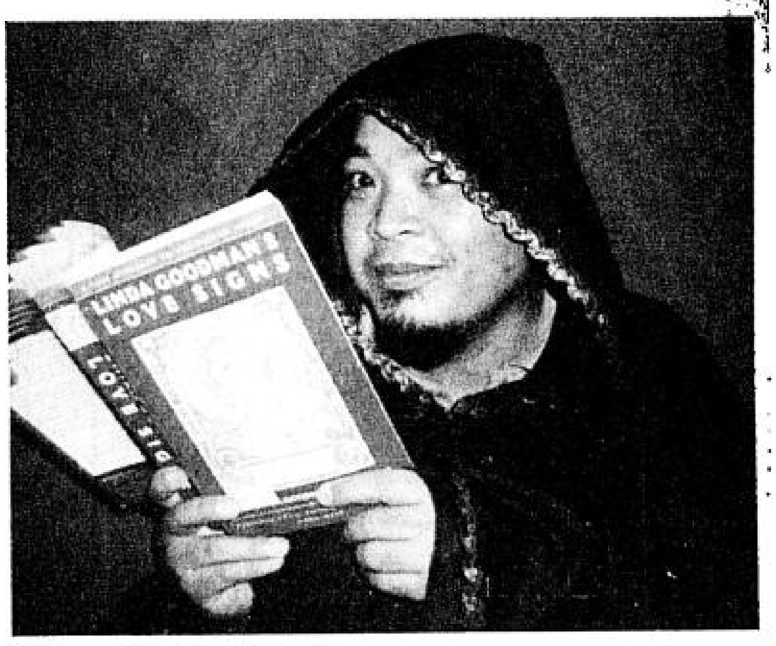
Light-hearted astrology

As anyone who has dabbled in the psychic realm knows, it is bad to do this for money. Lalata recalls a friend who was very serious about astrology.

"*Sabi sa 'kin, 'yung ginagawa niyo,*' racket yan.' *Kasi* people have specific horoscopes. People are born on a definite day at a definite place, and the stars cannot be the same for everyone. *Kasi may* latitudes and longitudes *pa... yun ang totoong pagbasa ng* horoscope."

"But what we do in Libre is not strictly that kind of school, *'di ba?*" he says, laughing. "*Yung* objective *namin* is to make people laugh. *Yung may babaunin sila nang buong araw na masaya sila.*"

Lalata loves being read by so many Filipinos and getting feedback. Ask him the worst thing about his job and he says, "*Tumataba kami. Ako ang pinakamataas ang cholesterol dito sa* INQUIRER."


'ETO ang Friendster picture *ko.*

Despite the main objective of putting a smile on people's faces early in the day, Lalata also finds it strange that many of his fortunes come true. "I get calls *na minumura ako* in a fun way: '*Grabe ka! Bakit ganito ang* horoscope *ko?*' So word gets around *na tumatama yung* horoscopes."

Born on Sept. 23, this fortuneteller is himself caught in a zodiac "limbo"—a cusp between Libra and Virgo. He is also on the fence when it comes to his beliefs in astrology: "Zodiac signs not really... but in a way, *oo din eh. Ang definite sa* Pinoy is we all know our zodiac signs. You go to some other countries, *hindi nila alam. Sa* Pinoy, we're raised to believe in that. *Kahit hindi* formally *tinuturo sa atin*, it's so much ingrained in our belief system. So *paano kung tumatama?* Sometimes, *nagiging* self-fulfilling *na.*"

"People are not totally rational despite scientific and technological advances. I just think that it's wrong to let [astrology] control your life. Guide *nga lang ito eh*; you shouldn't take it so seriously," he says.

Need for magic

Interestingly, Lalata utilizes tarot cards when making decisions. "It helps. *Gaya nga ng sabi ni* Carl Jung, *nasa iyo na yung* answers; instrument *lang ito* to help you answer your questions."

He also finds inspiration in the Sandman books of Neil Gaiman. "*Kasi* you deal with facts, which are sometimes boring. There is a need for magic; something different, not the rational kind. It makes you realize that there is something else *na pwedeng gawin dito sa mundo.*"

But beyond horoscopes and tarot cards, Lalata relies most on his gut. "I've never been wrong *sa* gut feel in terms of career decisions, *except 'yung mga pinautang ko.* Fortunetelling never seems to work when it comes to money. It works *sa* relationships [because a lot of it is] self-fulfilling. *'Pag malaki yung* decision factor, it works. *Pero kung malaki yung* external factor—money, lotto—*eh 'di mayaman na sana ko.*"

Speaking of lottery numbers, he remembers having a very vivid dream about the number seven. "*Tumaya ako pero isa lang kasi hindi ko na alam yung ibang* numbers. And it did come out." Perhaps there is something mystical to his talents, after all.

Thanks to Armin Adina for makeup, Rodney Lagman for wardrobe and Tammy David for her Canon Powershot G5.

E-mail the author at cathy_young1@yahoo.com

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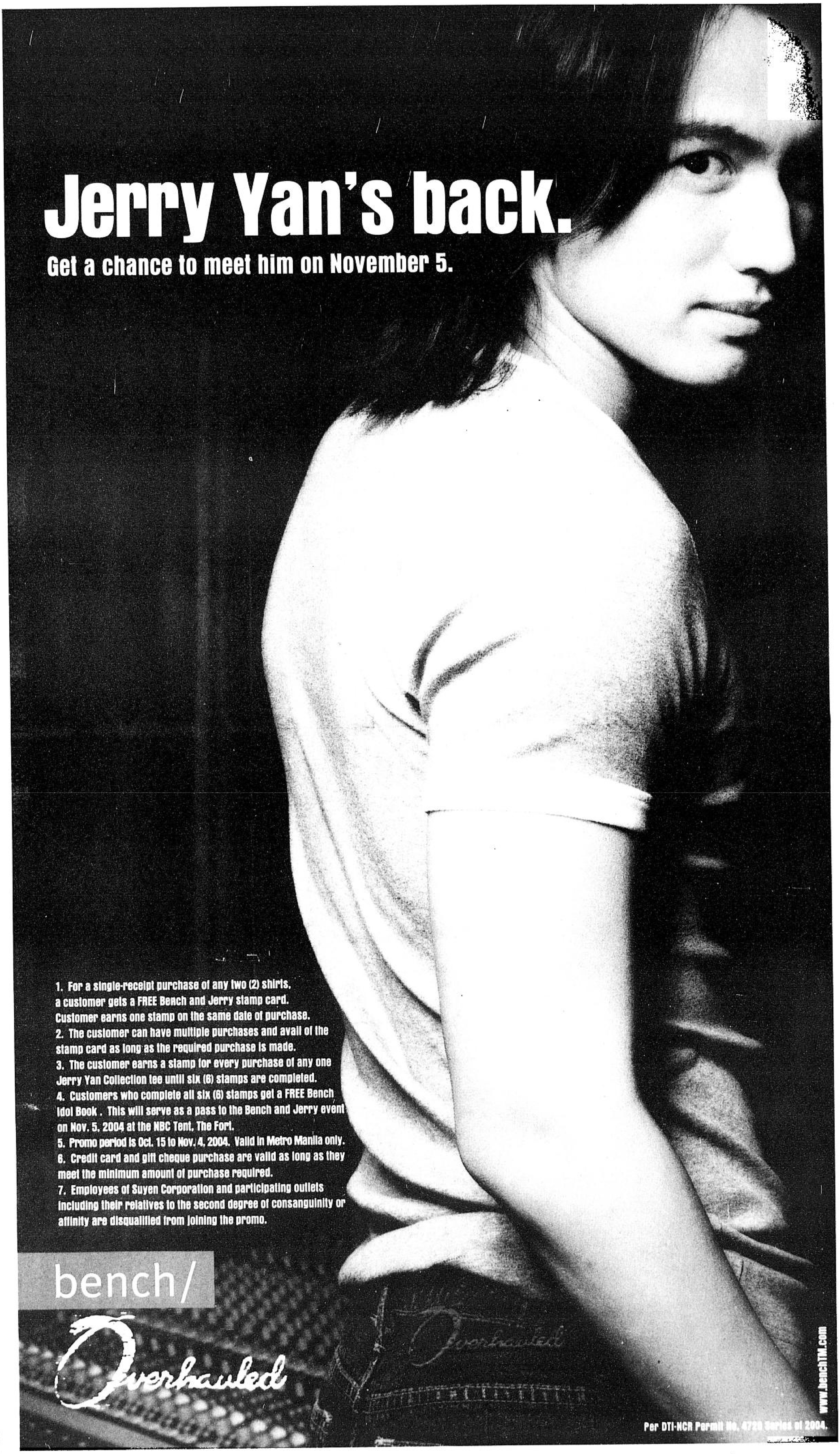

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Fantasies from our closet

Princess
ON KAT: Purple top and ball skirt, stylist's own; shawl from Karimadon

Text and styling by Bianca Consunji
2bU! Correspondent
Photos by Jake Versoza
CO-STYLIST ABIGAIL PUZON

FORGET plastic fangs, rubber masks and unimaginative black outfits.

Although Halloween is usually associated with ghouls and witches, people have been using the occasion to live out all kinds of fantasies. Which explains why you have vampires mingling with Britney Spears wannabes. Halloween isn't scary anymore. It's one big costume party!

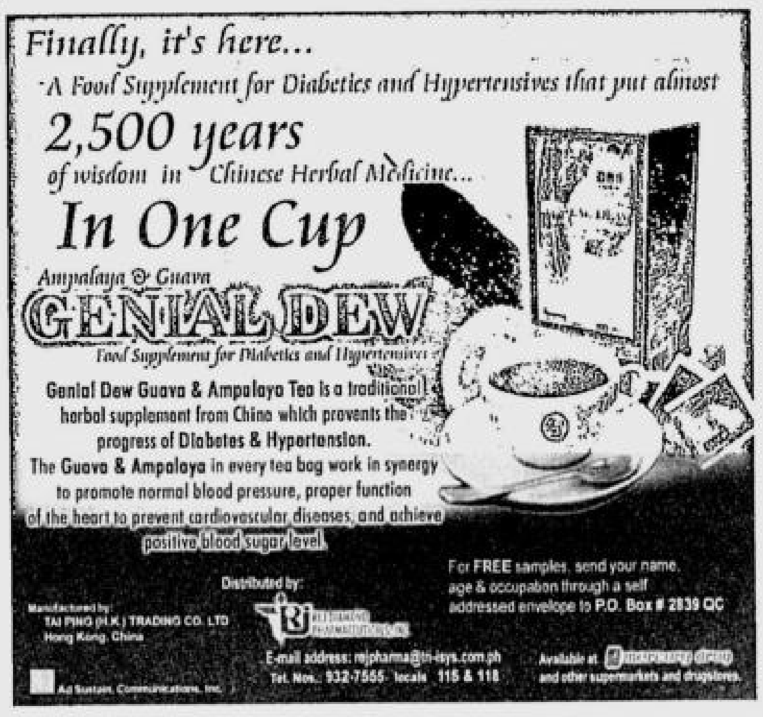
Well, sometimes, anyway. More often than not, the only extravagant outfits on the trick-or-treat scene are worn by kids, courtesy of the children's corner in the department stores. They invariably go as: a) Morticia Addams, b) blond pop star/cheerleader, and c) themselves (with the explanation that they look scary enough on their own).

For many, the ultimate costume is an all-black ensemble and lots of eyeliner—which, when you think about it, is just your friendly goth next door's everyday outfit.

Granted, finding costumes for guys isn't easy, but girls have it made. Remember that fluffy ball skirt you got for the prom? Or that peasant blouse everyone was wearing two years ago? How about the costume your designer friend made for a fashion show?

Even the basic little black dress could be reincarnated into a costume—add a feather boa, borrow a wig, slip on fishnet stockings, and poof! You're all set to live out your "Chicago"-

FANTASIES/E2



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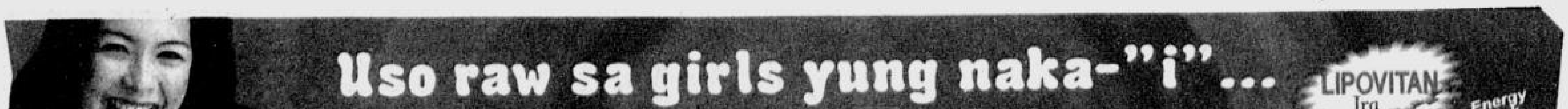

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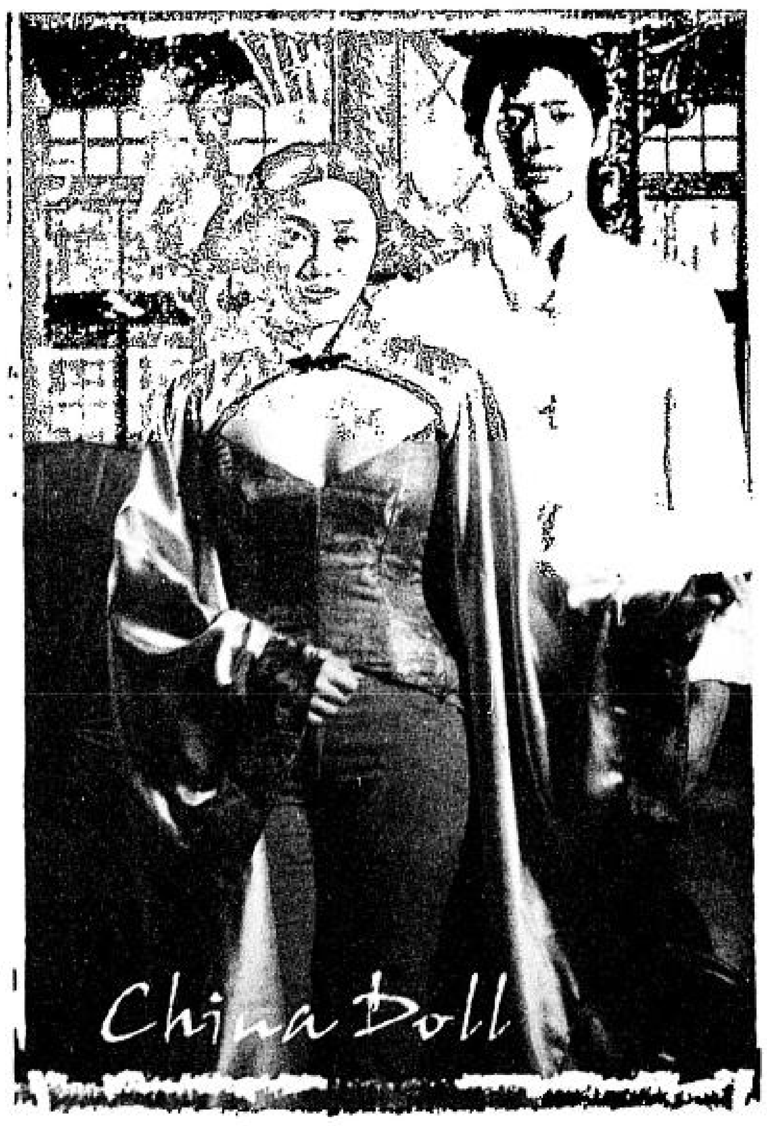
Fantasies from our closet

ON ERIC: White polo and sash, stylist's own; jeans, model's own. On Mayette: White peasant blouse and scarf (used as a belt), K2; ball gown (used as a skirt) with matching shawl, and belts, Karimadon

ON MYN: Dress by Freeway; wings, The Landmark, P250; Earrings by Get Happy

Flapper Girl

ON ERIC: Brown coat and hat, K2. On Denise: beaded black dress, Karimadon; faux pearls, stylist's own; black fishnet stockings, K2; wig from Bergmann



ON SM: Chinese outfit (corset and sleeves) to order from Aby Puzon (0917-9229184); Red capris, model's own. On Eric: White long-sleeved Mandarin shirt, to order from Raffy Viernes (0917-9314720); jeans, model's own

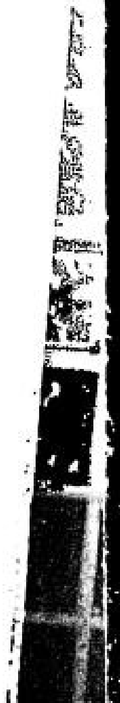
From page E1

inspired fantasy for a night.

For this shoot, we dug out stuff from our own closets, borrowed from student designers, and jazzed up everyday outfits found in malls. No spandex suits here!

A change of hair and makeup can also give you a Halloween look. Xeng Zulueta and Yza Palmero of Shu Uemura show us how to tweak everyday colors into costume sheens, while Pin Antonio and the Salon de Manila creative team used Tigi Bed Head* products to create Halloween-worthy looks.

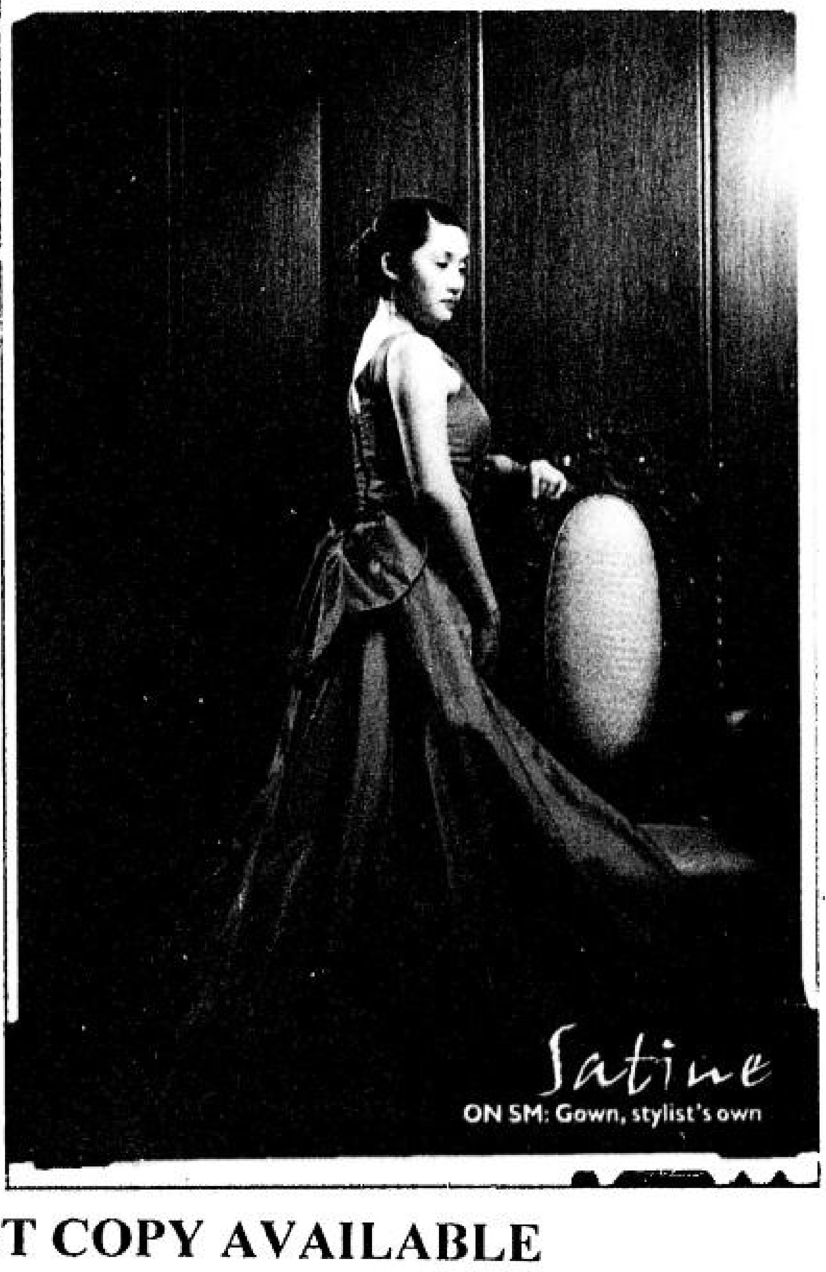
E-mail biancaconsunji@yahoo.com



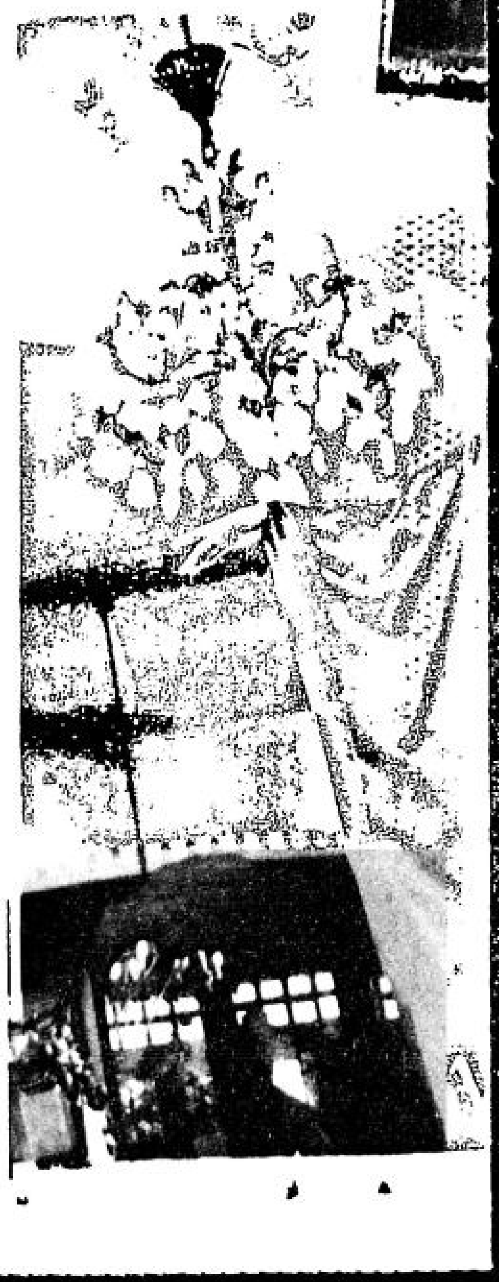
DRESS, stylist's own; wig from Bergmann

Devil & Angel

ON ERIC: Black tank top, K2; jeans, model's own. On Kat: white ball gown, stylist's own; beaded belt (used as hairpiece), K2



ON SM: Gown, stylist's own



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BLACK tube top, stylist's own; leather skirt and boots from K2 in Glorietta

Makeup by
XENG ZULUETA
and YZA PALMERO
of Shu Uemura.
Hair by
PIN ANTONIO and
Salon de Manila's
creative team
for Tigi Bed Head

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TO VANESSA FIGUROA,
ERICA ILICAD AND KIT ARINES.
SHOT AT THE FIGUEROA
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MODELS: KAT VILLANUEVA,
MYN REYES, SM SOMERA,
DENISE ONG, MAYETTE
CORDERO AND ERIC ELEAZAR.
ADDITIONAL HAIRSTYLISTS:
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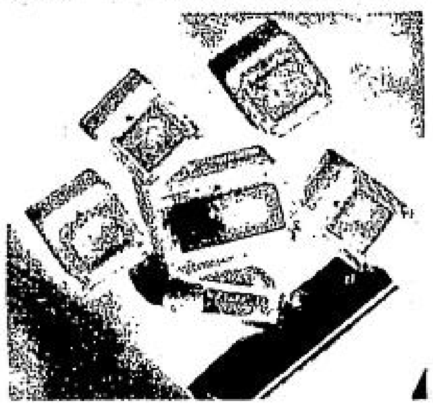
DRESS, to order from Mitzi Cruz (0917-6254285); tiara, stylist's own; wig from Bergmann



Get the look!

Pixie

Think Tinkerbell with a twist. If you have short hair, use Rubber Rage, a cross between wax and gel to get more feminine spikes (and to avoid looking like your brother). Brush on ME Green 555 eye shadow on your lids and P Wine 25 blush for an impish, Technicolor twist.

Catwoman

If you're feeling mischievous (and too lazy to buy a headband), create your own cat's ears with Hard To Get, a pliable paste best for short hair. Get smoky eyes with ME Silver 945 and pair off with plum lip color.

Princess

Aim to look innocent and dreamy. Before curling your hair, spritz on Uptight, a heat-activated curl maker to make your locks remain bouncy as you walk from door to door to collect your candy. Finish off with P Pink 30 blush and Sweet Lipgloss in Strawberry.

Angel

Angels have to look, well, heavenly. Use Headrush to enhance shine on soft curls, then play up your features with shimmery (not glittery) makeup. Try P Silver 91 highlighter on your cheekbones and shoulders, and IR Rainbow 900P eyeshadow, which looks white on the pan but comes out shimmery lilac-pink on your skin.

Victorian

To get really big hair, put up your hair in a bun and attach a curly wig held up by pencils. No, seriously. This gravity-defying hairdo was made possible by Maxxed-Out hairspray (with the pencils). To get icy-blue eyes, try P Blue 655 eyeshadow. Don't forget to use mascara for that extra touch of drama.

Flapper girl

Recreate the Roaring '20s with straight, bobbed hair and smoky eyes. Use Control Freak Hair Straightener, then apply blue-black eyeshadow on your lids paired with false lashes. Try ME Blue 638 and P Black 960 eyeshadow.

Gypsy

Manage to look as dirty (but glamorous) as a gypsy with messy hair and daring makeup. Use Small Talk, a styling aid for body and volume, and tease the roots of your hair to get that I-haven't-brushed-my-hair-since-birth look. Try ME Gold 390 eyeshadow paired with lots of eyeliner and red lipstick.

Marilyn

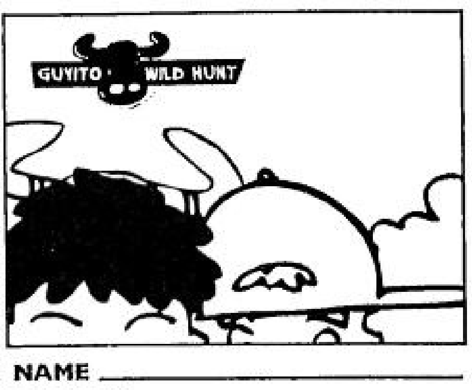
The ultimate Hollywood goddess, Marilyn Monroe's signature look includes platinum blonde hair, red lipstick, and mole. Unless you feel like bleaching your hair, get a wig (easily found at National Book Store). Try Lollishine Rouge Lipstick in 136, Mascara Length and Waterproof, and a little mole made with eyeliner.

China doll

Think geisha-meets-Chinese opera singer-meets Princess Leia. Braid hair and twist up in a bun, held with Power Trip gel to prevent any strands from falling. Get creative by mixing ME Gold 390 and ME Yellow 330 eye shadows, and follow with a dab of P Red 14, a watermelon-colored blush that's perfect for creating those Oriental eyes.

'Moulin Rouge's' Satine

If you like Satine's look, go for smoky eyes, red lipstick, and either an updo or curly hair. Use Superstar, a thermal blow dry lotion for more volume before putting up your hair. Then create smoky eyes with ME Brown 885 and slick on Lollishine Rouge in 353.



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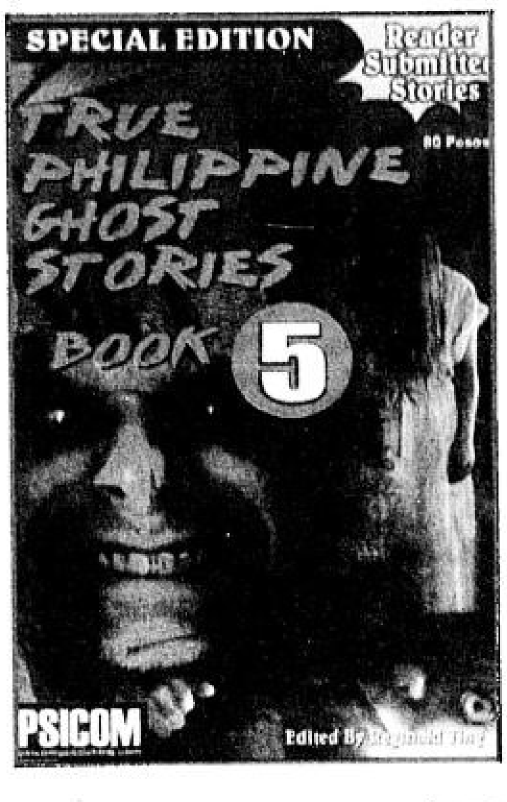
Packed with Pinoy horror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BOOK 6
PSICOM
BY Gianna Maniego and her team of ghost writers

By Niño Mark M. Sablan
2bU! Correspondent

THE PHILIPPINES is a huge cauldron of spooky stories and experiences. Whether you are in a picture-perfect province or in the city, you cannot escape elementals, white and black ladies plus earthbound spirits—either in physical form or through stories.

Horror stories on print are always a hit even if you've already heard of them before. Apart from the fact that interpretation is left to your imagination, the focus and quiet required by the act of reading also add to the fear factor.

These days, high schoolers are going crazy over "True Philippine Ghost Stories," a series of books by Gianna Maniego and her team of ghost writers. Published by PSICOM Publishing, each book is a compilation of supposedly true stories involving the usual suspects such as white ladies, headless ghosts and *aswangs*.

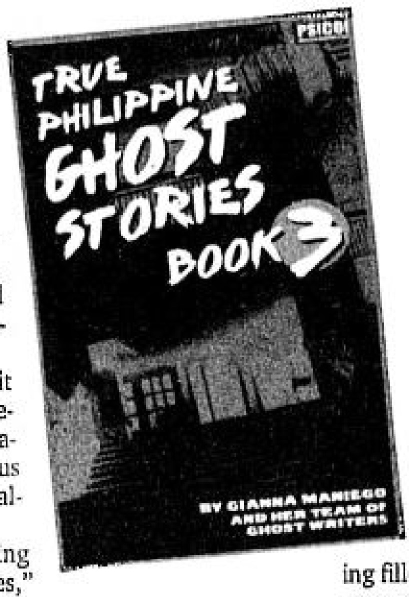
While the books are quite entertaining, some may get bored with the often predictable endings and hackneyed formulas. It's a book that purports to be a collection of "True Stories," yet it includes a glossary of terms (Book 2), a couple of jokes (Books 3 and 6) and, worst of all, a work of fiction ("Teen Travails" from Book 4).

Also, not all stories are about ghosts, since elementals, *manananggals* and doppelgangers also make an appearance. Excuse me?

Torrent of errors

Book 1 was printed and released in 2002, and the most horrific thing about it is not the story about the *kapre* or the tales involving apparitions of relatives. It is the torrent of typographical errors in the book, which extends to the succeeding volumes.

The second book is a bit more interesting. Apart from pictures that do not have anything to do with the stories, there are some interesting fillers such as a discussion on what *aswangs* or *manananggals* are. Particularly interesting are "Spirit of the Glass," reprint of an online post by blue_blooded at www.pinoyexchange.com and a story about the UST's old Med building. Book 2 also has a list of haunted places for interested ghost-hunters to visit.


PSICOM
TRUE PHILIPPINE GHOST STORIES
BOOK 3
BY GIANNA MANIEGO AND HER TEAM OF GHOST WRITERS

Young readers are going crazy over "True Philippine Ghost Stories," a series of books by Gianna Maniego and her team of ghost writers

TRUE PHILIPPINE GHOST STORIES
BOOK 4
PSICOM
by Gianna Maniego and her team of ghost writers

Book 3's greatest strength is the uniformly commendable set of illustrations by Jim and Jay Jimenez and Gilbert Monsanto, although I honestly don't think any of these artworks can scare anyone. The true horror is, the typographical errors are back!

Book 4 got rid of the illustrations and instead included photos of "ghosts" caught on camera, care of the Internet. This is truly a wise move. How do you argue with pictures, after all? Also, the editors can just get them for free from forwarded e-mail. Very clever.

But what are ugly kiddie doodles doing on one of the book's first pages? Good thing there are great stories, like "Teen Travails" by Viveca R. Singson, and a very entertaining work called "Something Terror This Road Comes" by Ivy Therese I. Cabildo.

Special edition

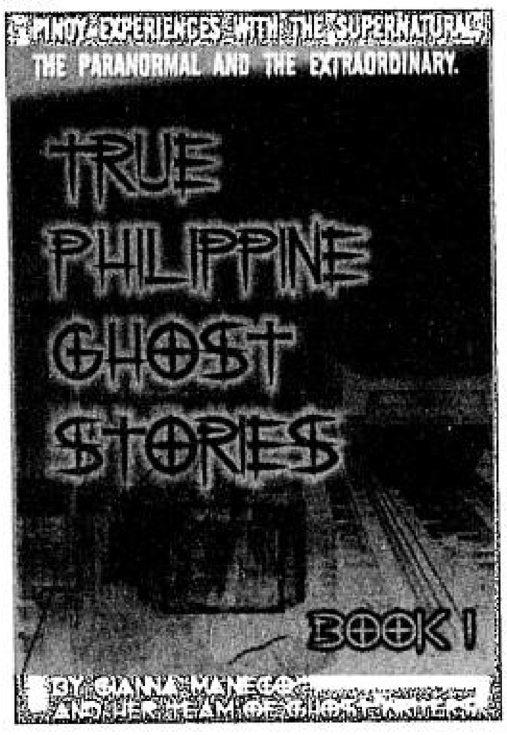
Book 5 is a special edition because it contains reader-submitted stories, some of which are grouped together. It has a scary story entitled "Blinking Virgin Mary," and it has, hands down, the scariest cover of the entire series. I'm joking. The cover blurb reads, "Do you believe in ghosts? Maybe now. You will." Truly something to scream about.

Book 6 is the latest installment. It shows that the people behind the series have pretty much learned from their past mistakes. For one, Book 5 editor Reginald Ting is gone, replaced by the comebacking Gianna Maniego:

The content is a nice balance of illustrations, e-mailed pictures and mostly ghost stories. At last! Back to basics!

Got a scary story of your own? Join the ghost story writing contest of PSICOM, the publisher of the "True Philippine Ghost Stories" series and National Bookstore. Get flyers from National Bookstore or log on to http://www.psicompublishing.com/forum

"True Philippine Ghost Stories" Books 1-6 are all available at Powerbooks and National Bookstore.


PINOY EXPERIENCES WITH THE SUPERNATURAL
THE PARANORMAL AND THE EXTRAORDINARY.
TRUE PHILIPPINE GHOST STORIES
BOOK 1
BY GIANNA MANIEGO AND HER TEAM OF GHOST WRITERS

NO WAITING
11am to 2pm
2pm to 4pm
Mondays to Fridays
g greenwich
FASTBREAK MEALS
Mapa-lunch o merienda, mag-Fastbreak Meals na! Katakam-takam! Sarap ng Greenwich favorites mo, nasa maraming combinations na pagpipilian. Lahat, affordable! Lahat, mabilis! 'Wag na ng mag-hintay. Fastbreak na!
ka- g greenwich

Tricks for treats

By Pauline Buenaventura
2bU! Correspondent

THINKING of throwing your own spookfest this Halloween? Well, here are some delicacies that will surely blow your guests' taste buds away.

Halloween Black Cat Cookies

1 c crunchy peanut butter
1/3 c of water
2 eggs
1 pack chocolate cake mix
1 pack M&Ms plain, chocolate candy
1 pack small marshmallows

Mix the peanut butter, eggs and water. Add the cake mix gradually and mix well. Form the dough into one-inch balls. Place them on an ungreased cookie sheet. Use a glass bottom dipped in sugar to flatten the balls. Transform the balls into cats by adding M&Ms for the eyes and marshmallows for the nose. Form two ears at the top of the cookie by pinching the dough. Use a fork to form the cat's whiskers. Bake your cookies at 375° for around eight-10 minutes. Stick a toothpick into the cookies every now and then to test if they're ready. If the toothpick comes out with fudgy cookie crumbs, then your Black Cat cookies are ready!

Candy Apples

1 dozen red apples
3 c granulated sugar
1 c corn syrup
1 c water
½ tsp cinnamon
¼ tsp red food coloring
12 pcs barbeque stick

Thoroughly wash and dry the apples and insert a barbeque stick on the stem end of each apple. Prepare a greased baking sheet. Combine the sugar, corn syrup and water in a saucepan. Heat the mixture and stir constantly until the sugar dissolves. Cover and bring it to a boil. Once it is boiling, uncover the saucepan and drop in cold water one at a time. Blend in the cinnamon and red food coloring. Remove from heat. Dip in the skewered apples and coat evenly. Place on the baking sheet to harden.

Makes 12 candies.

Orange and Chocolate Cheesecake

1 box Chocolate Wafers
6 tbsp melted butter or margarine
3 packs cream cheese
1 c sugar
1½ tsp vanilla extract
5 eggs
2 oz melted semisweet chocolate
2 tsp grated orange peel

Combine the melted butter and cookie crumbs. Set aside ½ cup of the mixture. Use the rest of the mixture to cover the bottom and 1 ½ inches of the sides of your cake pan. Press it onto the pan firmly. Set aside in the refrigerator. Beat the cream cheese, sugar and vanilla together in a bowl at medium speed with a mixer. Add one egg at a time. Remove one cup of the batter and add the ½ cup of butter and crumbs mixture. Set aside. Stir the orange peel into the remaining batter and pour into the refrigerated crust. Use the melted semisweet chocolate to cover the batter. Spread evenly on top. Bake at 300° for around 50-60 minutes or until set. Cool on a wire rack and refrigerate for at least four hours.

Spider-web Brownies

4 squares of unsweetened baking chocolate
¾ c butter
2 c sugar
3 eggs
1 c flour
1 c chopped nuts
1 c melted marshmallow
1 square of melted semisweet baking chocolate

Preheat the over to 350°. Grease your baking pan. Heat chocolate and butter together until butter is melted. Remove from heat. Stir until the chocolate is melted. Add the sugar and stir until completely blended. Mix in eggs, vanilla, flour and nuts. Stir thoroughly. Pour onto greased cake pan. Bake for 30-35 minutes or until set. Do not overbake. Once baked, cover the brownies with melted marshmallow. Spread evenly. Use the melted semi-sweet chocolate to create a spider-web design. Wait until set, and then cut into squares.

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ONE HAND, one heart: A multitude of helping hands for a better world to Hands On Manila's third anniversary

VIP: Very Involved INQUIRER president Sandy Romualdez

Spending my Sunday with VIPs

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Take Korgivit-E and be High on 5

Tim Yap

IT felt a bit surreal going inside the NBC Tent on a Sunday afternoon. No, it wasn't an after-party that extended till the next day, nor was it a rave event that started way too early.

But yes, I still managed to hobnob with over a thousand VIPs that day. The vibe was fresh, the music thumped and the people were really nice, touchy-feely in a good way. They moved around a lot, making sure all the VIPs had ample space to do their thing.

When I say VIPs, I don't mean chi-chi people out to feel pampered and be accorded special treatment. In fact, it's the other way around. These partyphiles were out to party—meaning, to spread unadulterated joy to other people by means of the "V" word—volunteerism! VIP now means Volunteer In Person.

VIP day 2004 by Hands On Manila was a whole day's worth of selfless devotion for a good cause. This year marks the third anniversary of the organization. INQUIRER president and a true volunteer, **Sandy Prieto-Romualdez** is the chair of the VIP event—putting everything together with the help of 200-strong volunteers. These VIPs planned and promoted the event, put up the exhibits, run the registration, distributed food, manned the booths, and became big brothers and sisters to the kids. "They were there from early morning till the very end. How's that for sheer devotion?" So beamed Hands On Manila president **Gianna Montinola,** proud of the VIPs within her midst.

"It's so cool here—everyone is so sincere!" exclaimed my co-host for the day's auction, **Tessa Prieto-Valdes**. Lately, we've been hosting auctions together—we like increasing the value of any given item—for a good cause.

This time, the cause was to instill the value of volunteerism among the youth. But the value of each item to be auctioned off was worth more, because instead of money, the items took in bids of volunteer time. Clearly a win-win (or Wynn Wynn—after Hands On Manila VP **Wynn Wynn Ong**) situation because you win twice. That's the magic of giving.

Hands On playground

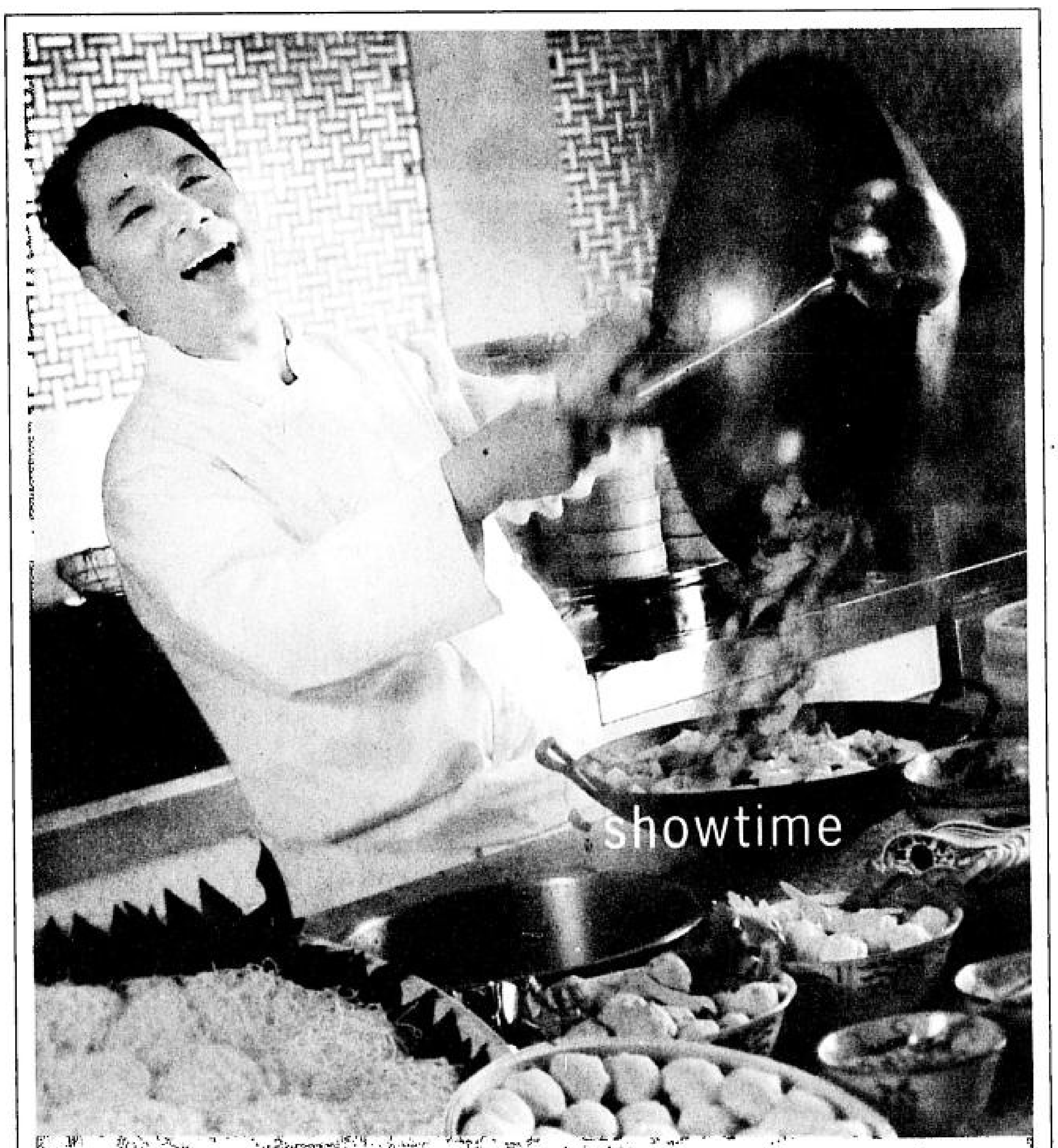
VIP day started with a mass officiated by Fr. **Tito Caluag**, with the Hangad choir spearheaded by the Associate Missionaries of Assumption. "Give wholeheartedly," he advised

SPENDING/ F2

[illegible]

HAPPY kids at the Tent

'I'M here!
METROBANK
MasterCard
ANZ



Market Café at the new Hyatt Hotel and Casino Manila. Showtime! Where cooking is elevated to performance art. A gallery of show kitchens and live cooking stations featuring international cuisine created right before your eyes. Twenty-four hours a day. Right hot, fresh out of the wok.

[illegible]

Feel the Hyatt touch.

HYATT HOTEL AND CASINO MANILA

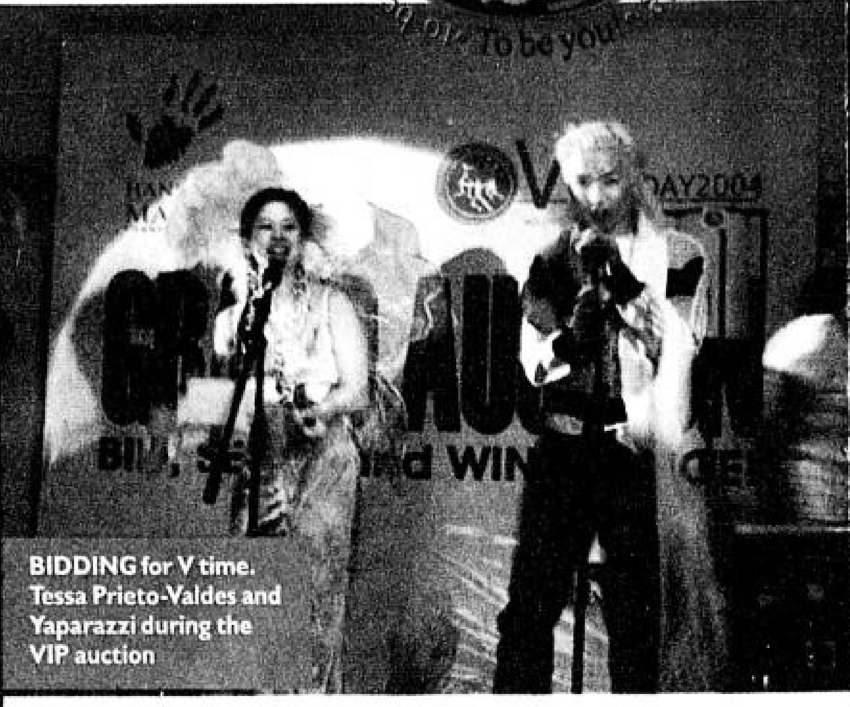
[illegible]

Market Café

ENCHANTED QUEENDOM. Models pose with the guests before the fashion show.

HANDS ON GUYITO. INQUIRER was the Hands On partner for the VIP event at the NBC Tent.

TAMARAW TREE. The FEU Pep Squad's call for volunteerism



BIDDING for V time. Tessa Prieto-Valdes and Yaparazzi during the VIP auction

SOME 150 underprivileged kids had a great time.

GOOD badminton clinic by Philippine Olympian Weena Lim

Spending n Sunday with

From page F1

the crowd while an HOM (that's Hands On Manila for you) AVP directed by **Quark Henares** was played. In the video, Hands On Manila volunteer **Babet** talked about the fulfillment of volunteerism. "I am happy that I am able to share my talent. When I go, at least I can say I've helped others, I've passed on my legacy," he said in Filipino. After that, 150 kids from 11 children's organizations from different shelters had a field day playing in the giant slide, velcro wall and bouncing house. "The children were just so ecstatic, their faces full of joy," said **Lisa Crisostomo**, Hands On Manila director. If I had come earlier, I would have joined them in the Hands On playground.

But the kids went beyond playing. Their relay games were all related to volunteer projects: tree-planting, human spelling, "build-a-house" to "going-to-market"— all values-centered to inculcate a sense of responsibility in our young.

The mobile library of Museo Pambata was also there, as volunteers did story-telling sessions. Unknown to many, this was how I spent some summers during my college years—as guest storyteller at the Museo Pambata.

Game booths with basketball, fishing, ring toss, reading and art corners, were all over the VIP Tent. After lunch, a fashion show directed by **Ariel Lozada** and featuring 2bU! student volunteers, Hands On Manila awardees and professional models was held. Woman of style and substance, the stylish **Ces Drilon** hosted the show, with Bench T-shirts on spotlight, as refashioned by top designers such as **Patrice Ramos-Diaz, Rajo Laurel**, **Jojie Lloren**, and **Ivarluski Aseron**, among others.

Fashion for others

I so wanted to snatch this Rajo Laurel top with white sequined

Hero #2088
a.k.a. Professor Paint

HERO PROFILE

Age *Sex*
16 M

Favorite Gadget
The Brush of Justice

Greatest Battle
Conquering the Blank Wall,
The Call to Action

Partners
Captain Carpenter,
The Plumber of Pickwick,
The Gardening Gang

Greatest Adversary
Von the Vandal

Powers
Painting, Construction, Designing

Youth Aid:
Making a difference
your way

Youth Aid 2004
...because it's hip to serve

I wish to be a
YOUTHAIDER!

This is your Youth Aid participation form. For those whose schools are participating in Youth Aid, you may pass the acomplished form to your class teacher or school head. If you're participating independently then you may submit this form to your local Youth Aid organizer.

Name: ____________________
Nickname: ____________________
Age:______ Sex: ______
School: ____________________
Year Level:________________
Address: ____________________
____
____
Phone Number: ________________
Mobile Number: ________________
Email Address: ________________
Signature / Date: ______________

CONSENT SIGNATURES:
Parent: ____________________
Class Teacher: ________________
School Head: ________________

* This is Joel Mapa, hero #2088, He answers the call to action by painting houses for the homeless so that he can contribute his earnings to Youth Aid and give others a better chance of living. Youth Aid makes it possible for students like you and Joel to make a real difference for the community no matter who you are. Every Peso earned from painting houses or entertaining by playing guitar will help under privileged children build a better future.

This is a job for Youth Aid, This is a job for YOU.

November 20 is our day! We will inspire and show the world how we do it our way. Each Youth Aider will raise 250 pesos to add to the Youth Aid fund. If you are a high school or college student and your school is participating, fill up the attached form and get in touch with your class adviser, school head or school organizer. If your school is not participating, or you want to work independent from your school, or if you are not connected to any school, get in touch with your community Youth Aid organizer.

For more details you can also contact the Youth Aid National Secretariat, 8 San Manuel, Capitolyo, Pasig City. Tel.: (02)6355219 - Fax: (02)6365190 - E-mail: youthaid@giveasia.com

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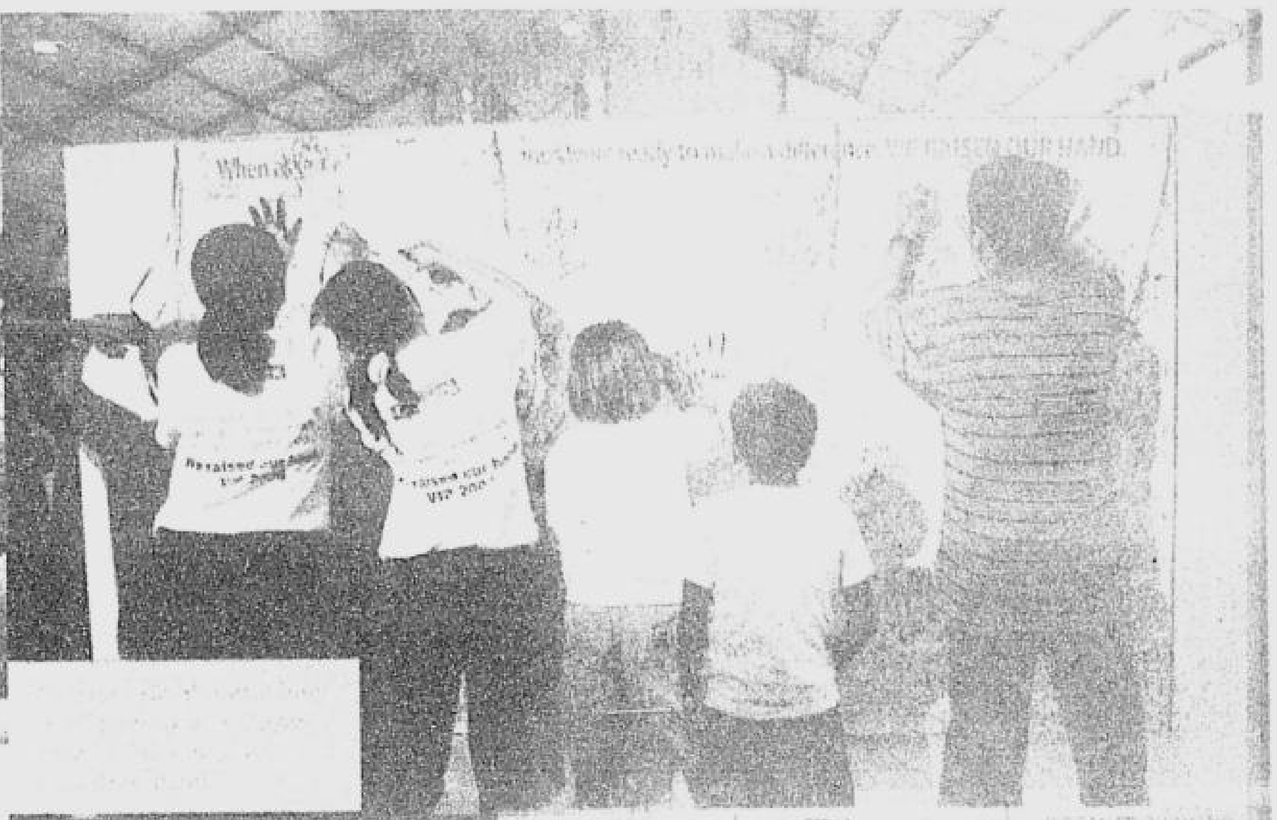
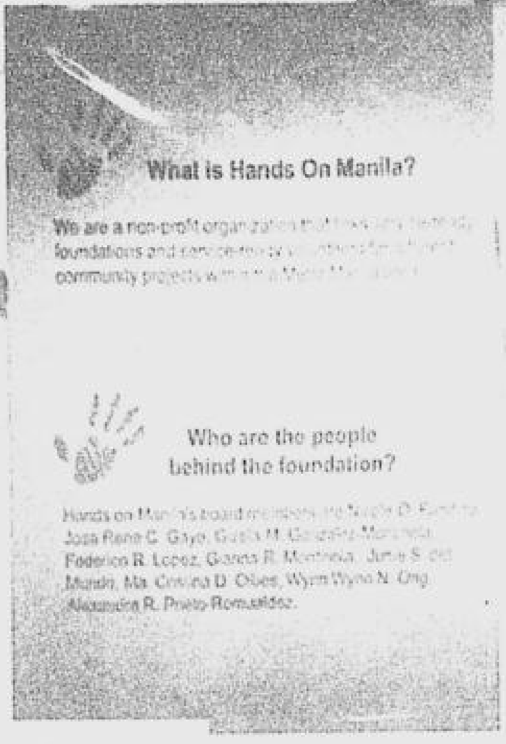


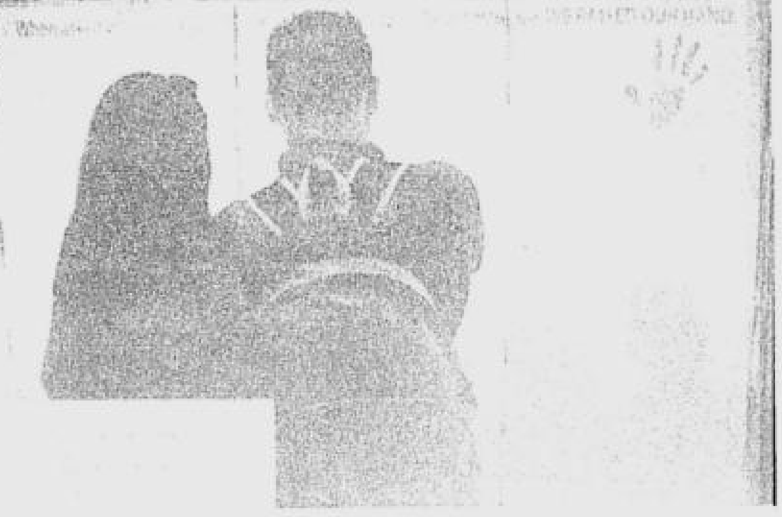


What is Hands On Manila?

We are a non-profit organization that [illegible] foundations and [illegible] community projects [illegible]

Who are the people behind the foundation?

Hands on Manila's board members are [illegible] Jose Rene C. Gayo, Gisela M. Gonzalez-Montinola, Federico R. Lopez, Gianna R. Montinola, Jaime S. del Mundo, Ma. Cristina D. Obes, Wynn Wynn N. Ong, Alexandra R. Prieto-Romualdez.



ny VIPs

icles and another one stud with plastic eyes (the one in stuffed toys) but I decided it should go to the volun s. One of the rare times, the times I gave up a fashion for others.

badminton clinic and an ex tion game was led by Philip Olympian **Weena Lim**, while non government organiza had booths selling their ucts inside the Tent.

e Far Eastern University Pep d closed the whole-day acti ies with an electric dance ormance aimed at encourag other young people to go d and volunteer. Yes, VIP means other things: Volunteer In Person, very involved people, very inspiring Pinoys.

Many companies held hands to make VIP day a success—PDI, Kiddieparty.com, Fon, Themeworks, Bench, Addict Mobile, Shoeman and more.

Imarflex, Gate Inc., Digital Exchange, Enchanted Kingdom, True Value and others made sure the VIP auction was a complete success!

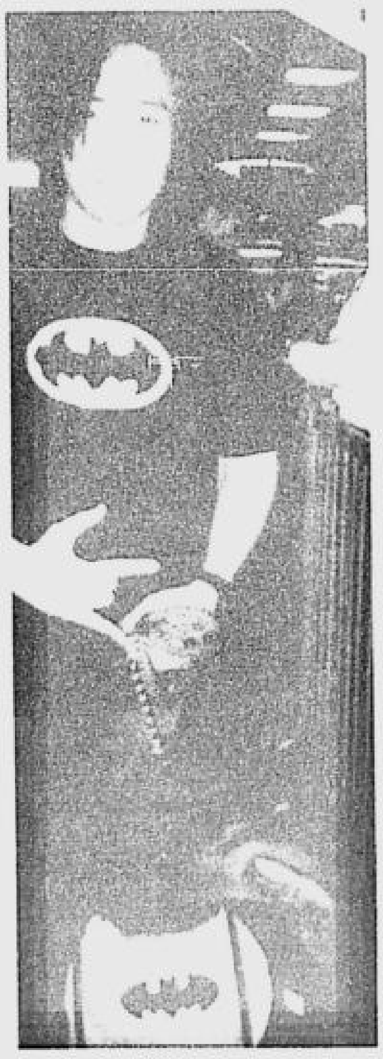
They say generosity is rewarded two-fold, and perhaps even more. True enough, after the auction, I looked around the Tent, smiled at the volunteers present and felt really warm inside.

Super! kids Halloween party

Maybe this volunteerism bit is really affecting me. This year, instead of doing my usual gigantic Halloween ball, I have decided to do it with underprivileged kids.

Nobody throws Hallo ties for them, so I de my "seventeen" So, years old and best Halloween mum and dad Play started

Animal love



KELVIN Yu with Juday, a Rottweiler

slaughter dogs for meat, PAWS also took part in rescuing abandoned and injured animals during the Cherry Hills landslide and a succession of Mayon Volcano eruptions.

The PAWS shelter, however, takes only cats and dogs for now, due to financial constraints and the organizations admitted lack of expertise when it comes to handling reptiles. For that, it turns to the Manila Zoo.

As Cabrera explains, "Sometimes people call and they get upset because we don't respond. You've got to understand, we are not 911. We don't even have a vehicle. When you call, you're calling up volunteers like me. I have to see if I can get out of work, take my car, grab a carton and slip it under an injured dog. *Ganun kahirap.*"

Some of the model dogs in the Megamall show were rescued animals. These K9s are open for adoption, but they also serve as "Dr. Dogs," in a therapy program where they are brought to hospitals, orphanages, and schools to spread cheer among sick and special children.

Visit www.pitstopit.com/paws3 or drop by the PAWS office at 87 Small Horseshoe Drive, New Manila, QC.

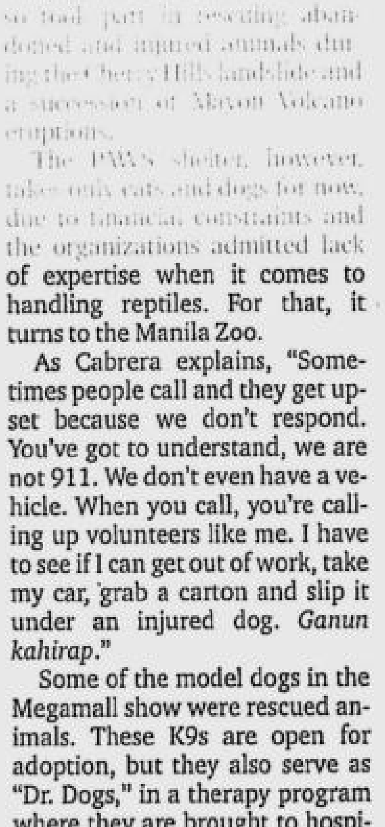
Sweet surprises

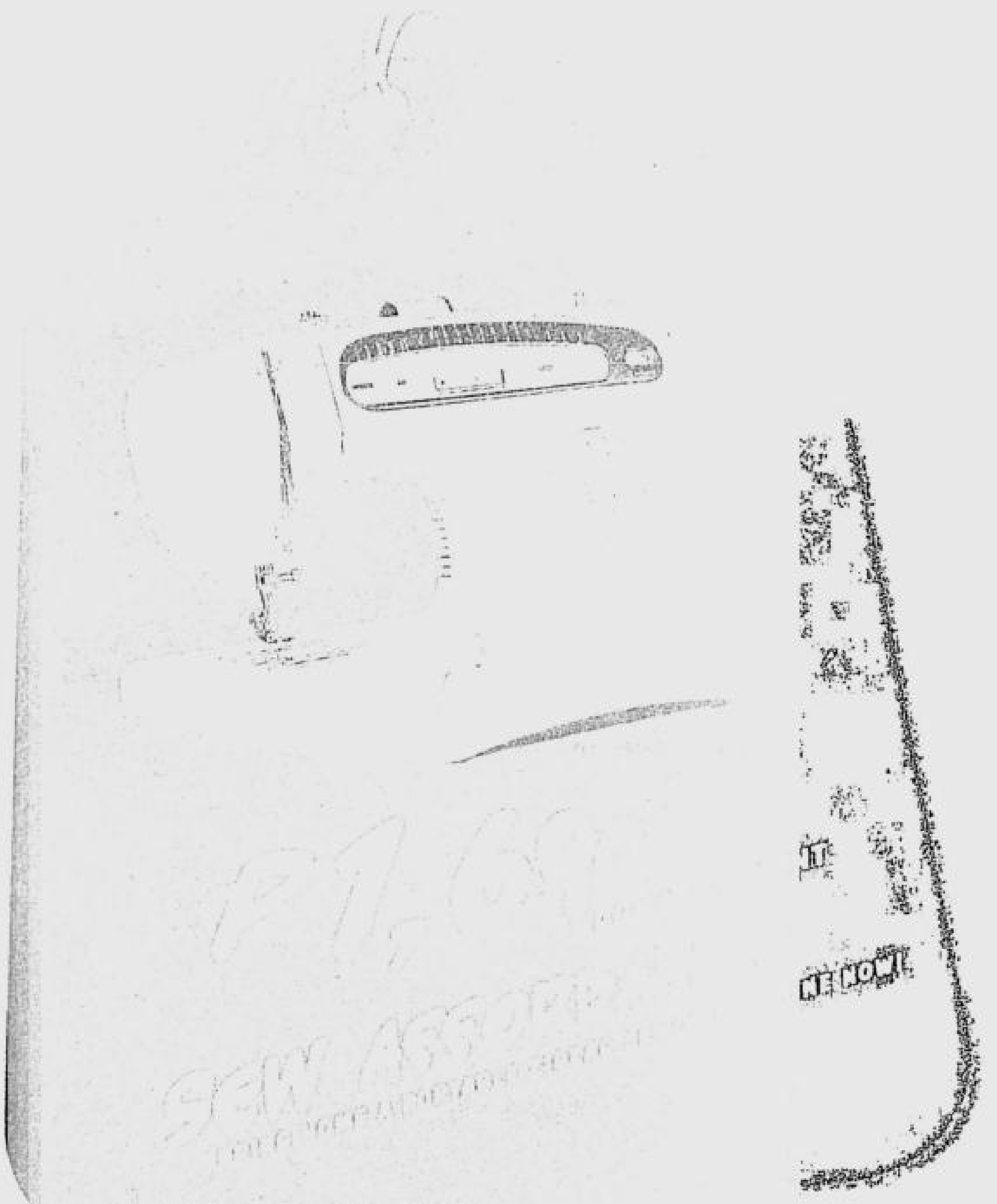
HALLOWEEN, or more correctly, Hallowe'en, celebrated on October 31st, is a holiday that focuses on the twin pleasures of dressing wacky and spooky, and eating good-tasting things.

It's a time when youngsters dabble in fun games or crafts, and when little pirates, pixies and ghouls of all ages get into the scary spirit by playing around, going Trick or Treating, and finally being rewarded with a bagful of treats and sweet surprises.

This season, entertain your guests with chewy treats like Bebeto gummi candies. They come in various fun shapes and characters like fish, bear, frog, shark, crocodile, turtle, ring, strawberry, cola bottle, Dracula teeth, and of course, the classic worms—the most popular Gummi character around.

Bebeto gummi candies with fruity flavors come in several packaging sizes: 25-g pouch bags, 600-g round plastic tubs, and 1-kg square plastic tubs. Imported and exclusively distributed by Fly Ace Corporation, available at supermarkets and leading retail outlets nationwide.





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PIA Guanio with Snoop

Animal love

Cats and dogs find a best friend in the Philippine Animal Welfare Society

By Diego Rosano P. Mapa
2bU! Contributor

THE PHILIPPINE Animal Welfare Society (PAWS), in cooperation with PowerBooks, recently put up a fashion show in SM Megamall called "Furry Tales."

It featured celebrities and their personal pets modeling fantasy costumes of characters from "Lord of the Rings," "Snow White," "Harry Potter," "Superman" and other popular series.

Stars like Pia Guanio, Ryan Eigenmann, Francis Magalona, even cartoonist Pol Medina Jr. walked down the ramp, but the dogs simply stole the show from them. Golden retrievers, rottweilers, dobermans, beagles and other assorted breeds came dressed up in bikinis, hats, capes, boxing gloves. Adorable!

Other activities that day included a drawing contest for kids, a photo exhibit of celebrities with their beloved pets, a sale of PAWS merchandise, and distribution of leaflets and other educational materials on animal welfare.

The show aimed to raise funds for PAWS' animal shelter, and at the same time to educate people about animal rights.

Not frivolous

"People may think this is just a frivolous thing", said Anna Cabrera, event organizer and dedicated volunteer. "Well, it's not. All the celebrities here are doing this pro bono, and we made this event for sponsorship of cash or medicines. Pharmaceutical companies are giving us free rabies vaccines, for instance. In the future, we hope people will continue to support us even without an event like this."

PAWS is a non-profit organization composed almost entirely of volunteers. The caretakers and secretary are the only paid staff; everyone else works for free. The organization works to prevent animal cruelty and help develop compassion to them.

The volunteers educate young children by going to schools and teaching them how to be kind to animals. They also give lectures to personnel of city pounds to teach them how to be more humane in capturing and taking care of stray animals.

PAWS' pride is its animal shelter, the only one in the Philippines of its kind. It uses stringent procedures in rehabilitating and adopting out animals, with procedures patterned after US shelters. Strict compliance is overseen by director of finance and shelter manager Oscar Lei, who trained in Houston SVCA (Sheepscot Valley Conservation Association) on a grant from the Humane Society of the United States.

Aggressive and visible

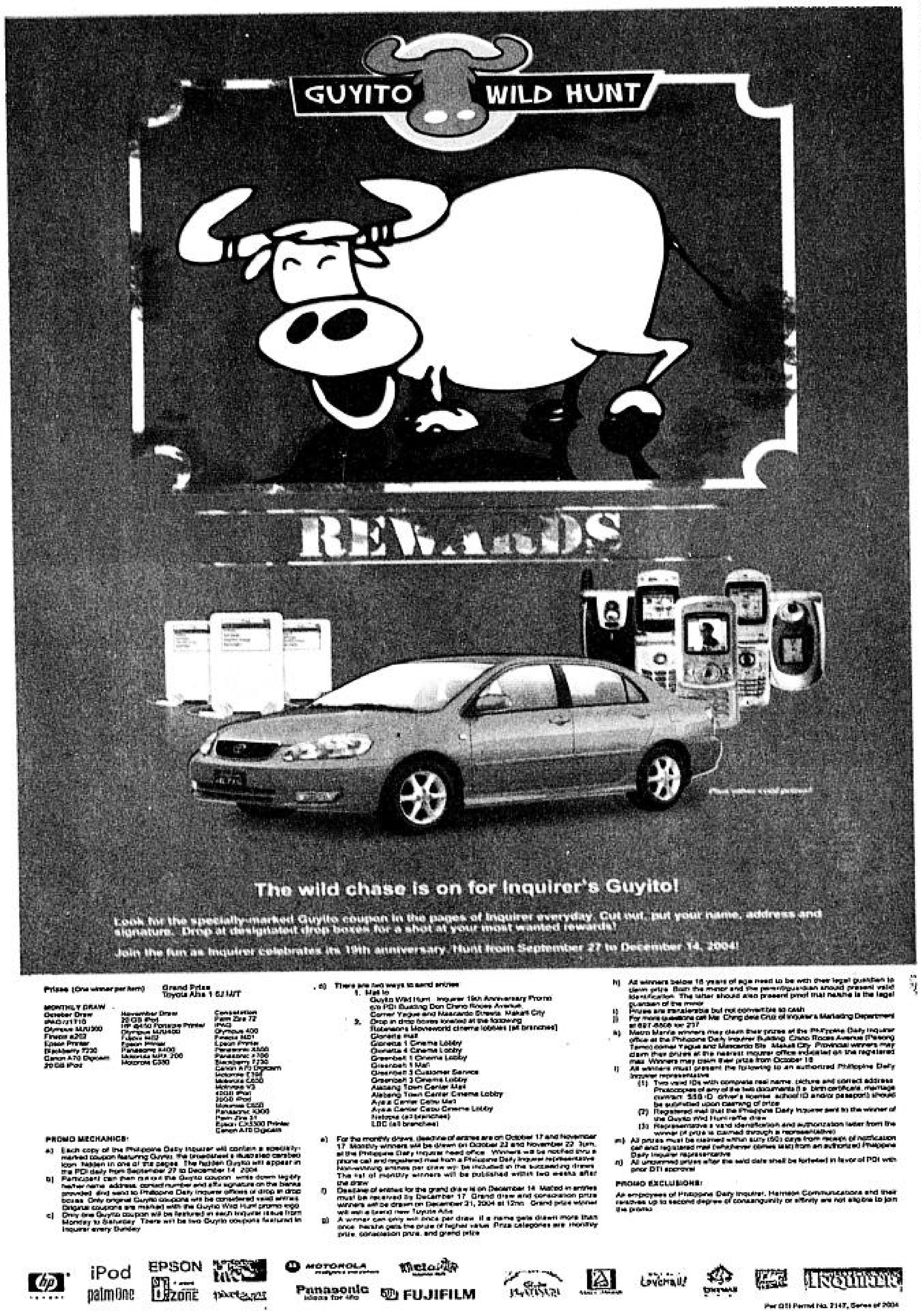
British educator Muriel Jay founded the organization in 1954. One of its earliest members, Nita Hontiveros (now the president) remembers selling stuffed toys and other items to raise funds for PAWS, and rescuing strays with only two bicycle patrols.

These days, PAWS is a more aggressive and more visible player. It was a prime mover in the passage of the Animal Welfare Act of 1998 (Republic Act 8485), which makes it illegal to

ANIMAL/ F3

OLA Paralejo with Keno, a Shelby

RYAN Eigenmann with Hash Brown, a Siberian husky



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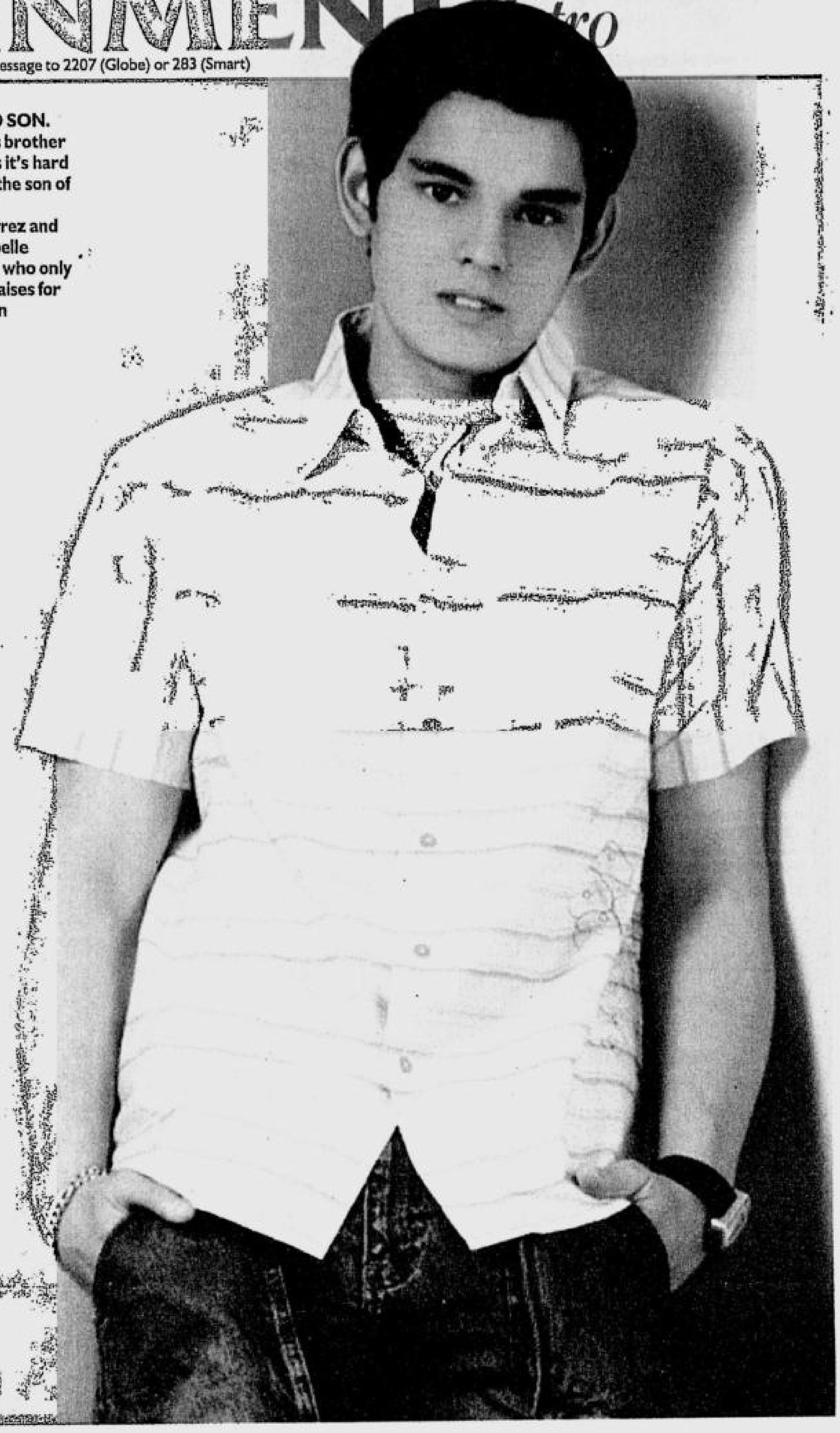
Richard wants to go home again



GOOD SON. Ruffa's brother admits it's hard being the son of Eddie Gutierrez and Annabelle Rama, who only has praises for her son

By Nini Valera

RICHARD Gutierrez admits he wants to go back to the family home because he misses his parents and siblings.

Richard moved out of the family house in White Plains, Quezon City, and now lives alone in the condominium unit of his sister Ruffa, who is married to a Turkish businessman and lives in her husband's country.

"I miss my family," Richard, 20, confided. "I get so lonely at times that I am now planning to return home."

He is also planning to renovate the den in their house in White Plains. He said it would be a playroom for his twin brother Raymond and himself.

Mother-son issues

Richard said that next year, he will move into his own condo unit, which he acquired recently.

"The unit is not yet finished," he said. "I bought it even before the building was finished. I might move there next year."

The young actor also admitted he has issues with his mother, but he refused to elaborate, brushing aside the issues as a "mother-and-son thing."

He also confessed it's not easy being the son of Annabelle Rama and Eddie Gutierrez.

"What I'm trying to do is make a name for myself," Richard told Inquirer Entertainment during the press conference of his film festival movie, "Sigaw," last Thursday.

"As much as possible, I don't want to be compared to my dad," he said. "But I guess I can't help that. Being in this business and being my father's son have kept me in the public eye even when I was just a kid. It's not always easy."

Better than dad

Ironically, Eddie Gutierrez is the first to compare Richard to himself, according to Richard.

"He told me that I am a better actor than he was when he was my age," said Richard. "I don't know if that's true, but he was serious when he told me that. I think it's because of the roles that I play.

"He also advised me to focus on my career, if this is what I really want, and he's been supportive of all my moves."

But Richard wants to go beyond his father's words. He said he constantly reinvents himself for the movies he makes, and has been attending acting workshops to enhance his skills.

"I don't want to appear as me in any of my movies," he explained. "I want to get into character and transform myself into that character."

In an earlier interview, his mom Annabelle told Inquirer Entertainment that Richard is a good son.

"I don't have problems with him," she said. "He helps the family willingly. He told me his plans about renovating some rooms in the house, and I'm happy he's doing that."

Business boom

She also revealed that Richard is generous with his siblings.

"He always remembers the family and gives us gifts," she related. "He's not hardheaded at all, and he has a good heart.

"When the twins were born, they brought us luck," she said. "At that time, we were living in the US and selling pots and pans. I have two sets of this cookware that I use up to now. I bought them after the twins were born so I have a souvenir to mark their birth. After their birth, our business suddenly boomed. We received so many orders for the pots and pans. The twins brought with them many blessings."

In his daily fantasy soap "Mulawin" on GMA 7, Richard plays the birdman Aguiluz. The series takes up most of his time, he said, but he managed to squeeze in shooting days for "Sigaw," where he is paired with Angel Locsin, his "Mulawin" co-star.

He debunked speculations that he and Angel are now a pair.

"I have no girlfriend at the moment," said Richard, who had gone steady with Anne Curtis for about a year.

He also denied rumors that a third party was involved in his breakup with Anne.

"It was a mutual decision," Richard said. "We're now good friends."

Happy twin

Notwithstanding the guarded answers, Richard makes an intelligent subject for an interview. He finished high school in the US, came back to the Philippines with his twin Raymond, a more brooding version of Richard, and lived in the family home in White Plains.

Raymond is not in show biz the way Richard has embraced the movies.

"He is happy the way he is," Richard said of Raymond. "That's okay, too. As long as he's happy doing his thing, that's fine with me."

He revealed that "Sigaw," a horror movie directed by Yam Laranas, had given him a few scares. The movie is set in the abandoned Avenue Theater on Escolta in Sta. Cruz, Manila.

The members of the production staff claimed they had several unexplained occurrences on the set. Strange noises were heard during the shooting, and several unearthly presences could be felt, they claimed.

Negative factors

The hauntings, a staffer said, set the mood for the movie, which Yam Laranas described in a press release as one of the scariest films this season.

But Richard is not bothered by the supernatural. He is more concerned about the real-life intrigues that sometimes haunt him.

"That's one thing I hate in this business," he said. "The intrigues and the rumors, the 'plastic' people. Those are the negative factors in being an actor. But I have to live with them and not let them affect me."

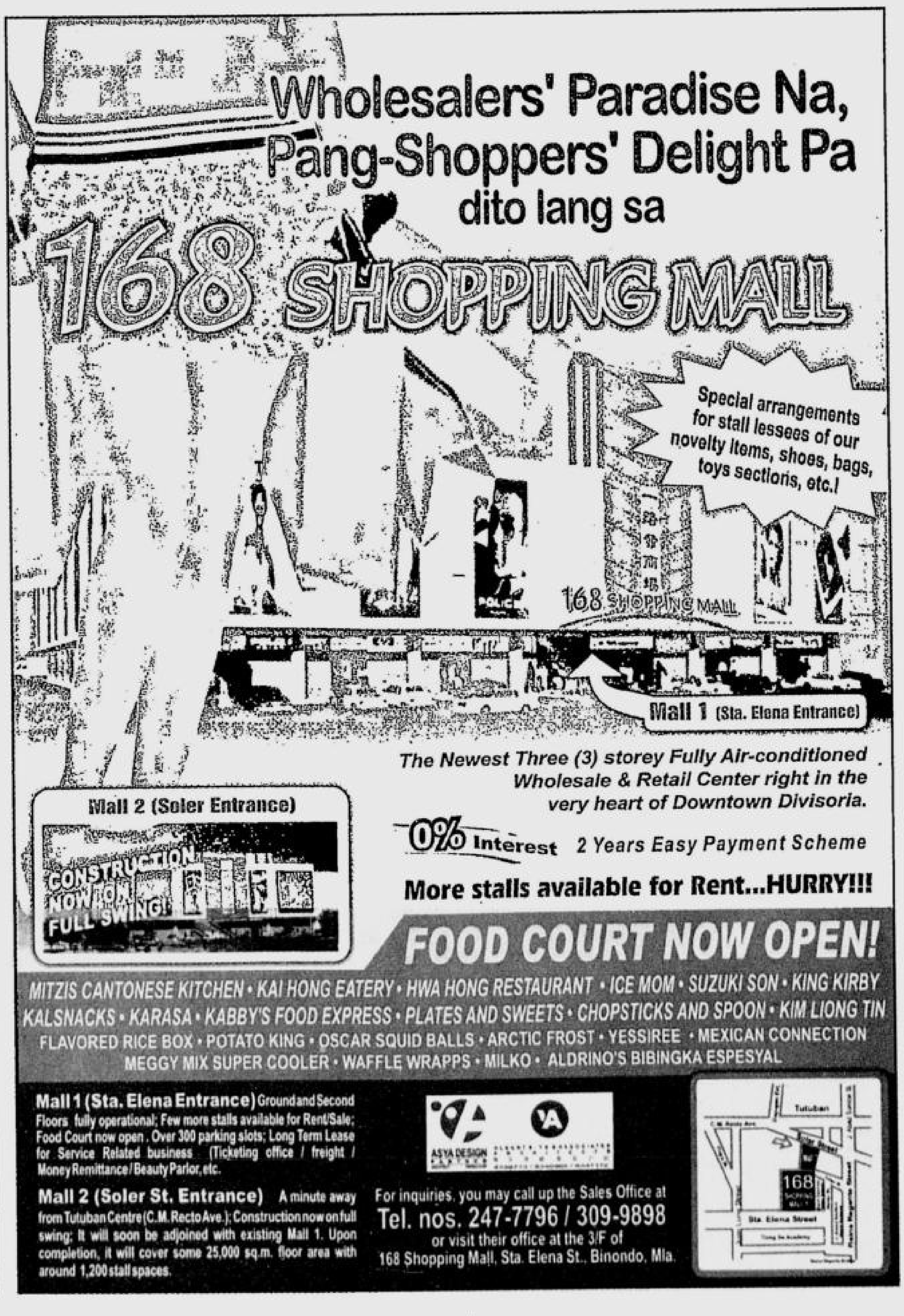
He plays an ordinary young man in "Sigaw," who gets entangled with one of his neighbors, a battered wife (Iza Calzado), who suffers the ritual beating from her husband, a cop played by Jomari Yllana. But it's his role in last year's "Mano Po 2" that is still Richard's benchmark for good acting.

"That role is my favorite so far," said Richard. "It was offbeat in the sense that there was so much angst in the character. I still have to top that performance."

"Mano Po 2" had Richard playing the tortured son of Lorna Tolentino, who played the third wife in the extended saga of a Chinese patriarch. In the movie, Richard got to commit suicide, a role that went against the grain of matinee idols.

"That's the point," said Richard. "I don't have to be a matinee idol. I just want to be a good actor."

KC IN PARIS
KC CONCEPCION has bedazzled us since the minute she was born to a megastar mother and an equally famous father. She has since bloomed into a star/model/endorser who's almost as in demand as her mom. Today, she is a Communications and Business student in Paris, where she also works as a secretary with a French TV production company. On her last visit to Manila, she shared the exciting details of her stay in the City of Lights, including her shopping expeditions. "You can lose your whole bank account in Paris!" she said. KC's French adventure is in the latest issue of Mega magazine, on whose cover she first appeared when she turned 16.



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Mall 2 (Soler Entrance)

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Mall 2 (Soler St. Entrance) A minute away from Tutuban Centre (C.M. Recto Ave.); Construction now on full swing; It will soon be adjoined with existing Mall 1. Upon completion, it will cover some 25,000 sq.m. floor area with around 1,200 stall spaces.

ASYA DESIGN

For inquiries, you may call up the Sales Office at
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or visit their office at the 3/F of
168 Shopping Mall, Sta. Elena St., Binondo, Mla.

See'Mall!

AYALA CINEMAS THX

Movies/schedules may change without prior notice. For verification call 729-7777

ATC ALABANG TOWN CENTER	G1 GLORIETTA 1	G4 GLORIETTA 4	GB3 GREENBELT 3	ACC AYALA CENTER CEBU
THX 1 THE GRUDGE	1 SUPERBABIES: BABY GENIUSES 2	1 STEAL 5 SHARK TALE	GUARANTEED SEATS THX 1 BEFORE SUNSET	1 LADDER 49
2 BEFORE SUNSET	2 THE GRUDGE	2 WHITE CHICKS 6 THE GRUDGE	GUARANTEED SEATS THX 2 THE GRUDGE	2 HOUSE OF FLYING DAGGERS
3 SUPERBABIES: BABY GENIUSES 2	3 CELLULAR	GUARANTEED SEATS THX 3 BEFORE SUNSET 7 CELLULAR	GUARANTEED SEATS 3 SUPERBABIES: BABY GENIUSES 2	3 SECRET WINDOW
4 CELLULAR	4 WHITE CHICKS	4 THE DOLL MASTER	GUARANTEED SEATS 4 WHITE CHICKS	4 HEAVEN'S POND
5 WHITE CHICKS			GUARANTEED SEATS 5 CELLULAR	5 THE PUNISHER

GB1 GREENBELT 1
1 HOUSE OF FLYING DAGGERS
2 THE GRUDGE

At the Activity Center

GLORIETTA	ALABANG TOWN CENTER	AYALA CENTER CEBU
GERMAN FESTIVAL: AUTOMOBILE SHOW October 25 to 27, 2004	POOH HALLOWEEN PARTY October 27, 28 and 30 2004	STI's UNITED NATIONS CELEBRATION October 27, 2004

ENTERTAINMENT LIVE!

GREENBELT 2	GREENBELT 3
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ONE
Food Choices

sam just wants to be treated
like anyone else. to be normal.

but its not going to be easy.
because her dad is
the president of the united states.

katie

first daughter

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mtrcb rating: general audience (G)

For movie screening schedules, call the Ayala Cinema Links:

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AYALA CENTER
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LATE NIGHT SCREENING
DURING FRIDAYS AND SATURDAYS

1 BEFORE SUNSET

2 BABY GENUISES 2

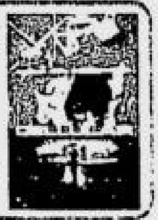
BABY GENUISES 2 MTRCB Rating: GP

SM Megamall Cinema 6
SM City Fairview Cinema 8
SM Tutuban Cinema 2
SM City Sta. Mesa Cinema 2
SM Southmall Cinema 2
SM City Manila Cinema 5
SM City North Edsa Cinema 2

BEFORE SUNSET MTRCB Rating. PG 13

SM City Manila Cinema 6
SM Megamall Cinema 11
SM City North Edsa Cinema 6

CELLULAR MTRCB Rating: PG13



SM Megamall Cinema 3
SM Southmall Cinema 9
SM City Sta. Mesa Cinema 5
SM City Fairview Cinema 4
SM City Bicutan Cinema 2
SM City Manila Cinema 3
SM City North Edsa Cinema 5
SM Supercenter Sucat Cinema 2

THE GRUDGE SUBJECT TO MTRCB RATING

SM City Manila Cinema 4
SM City North Edsa Cinema 8
SM City Fairview Cinema 6
SM City Sta. Mesa Cinema 4
SM Southmall Cinema 3
SM Tutuban Cinema 4
SM City Bicutan Cinema 3
SM Megamall Cinema 9

SUBJECT TO MTRCB RATING **SKY CAPTAIN AND THE WORLD OF TOMMOROW**

SM Southmall Cinema 6
SM Megamall Cinema 2
SM City Manila Cinema 7
SM City Fairview Cinema 7

STEAL SUBJECT TO MTRCB RATING

SM City Sta. Mesa Cinema 9
SM Southmall Cinema 8

WHITE CHICKS MTRCB Rating: PG13

SM Tutuban Cinema 1
SM Supercenter Sucat Cinema 1
SM City Fairview Cinema 5
SM City Sta. Mesa Cinema 3
SM Southmall Cinema 4
SM City Bicutan Cinema 1
SM City Manila Cinema 1
SM City North Edsa Cinema 7
SM Megamall Cinema 8

DOLL MASTER MTRCB RATING: R 13
SM City Manila Cinema 9
SM Megamall Cinema 12
SM City North Edsa Cinema 4
SM City Sta.Mesa Cinema 6
SM Southmall Cinema 10
SM Supercenter Sucat Cinema 4
SM City Fairview Cinema 12
SM Tutuban Cinema 3
SM City Bicutan Cinema 4

HOUSE OF FLYING DAGGERS MTRCB Rating: PG 13
SM City Manila Cinema 2
SM Megamall Cinema 4
SM City Sta.Mesa Cinema 8
SM City Fairview Cinema 9

LADDER 49 MTRCB Rating: PG 13
SM City Manila Cinema 11
SM City Sta. Mesa Cinema 10
SM City North EDSA Cinema 1
SM Southmall Cinema 1
SM City Fairview Cinema 2
SM Megamall Cinema 10

RESIDENT EVIL MTRCB Rating: R 13
SM City Manila Cinema 10
SM City Sta. Mesa Cinema 1
SM Megamall Cinema 1
SM City Fairview Cinema 1

SHARK TALE MTRCB Rating: GP
SM City Manila Cinema 8
SM Megamall Cinema 5
SM City Sta. Mesa Cinema 7
SM Southmall Cinema 5
SM City Fairview Cinema 10

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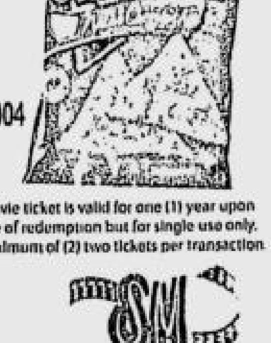

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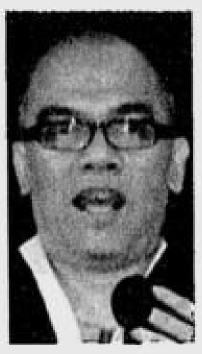

BOY ABUNDA's "Private Conversations" has been nominated for best talk show in the Asian Television Awards in Singapore. The winners will be known in December. "Private Conversations" is aired on ANC.

ALICIA Keys

'The Diary of Alicia Keys'

ONCE in a while, a true musician like Alicia Keys' comes along—the kind that looks at her work as an expression of her own experiences.

These experiences are chronicled in Keys' latest release, "The Diary of Alicia Keys-Special Edition," an album that reflects who she is and what she's about.

The album has already spawned such radio and music video favorites like "You Don't Know My Name" and "Diary," which is at No. 5 on dwRX 93.1 and No. 10 on Wave 89.1.

The special edition album also includes a bonus CD featuring album track remixes and "If Ain't Got You," where she is joined by Usher, today's hottest male R&B artist.

To launch the special edition album, Keys will be releasing a new single, "Karma." The song demonstrates her innovative approach to music and the diversity of her own musical training.

Keys is a rare artist—a singer, songwriter and extraordinary pianist who combines classical training with an old-school sensibility and a mix of hip-hop and R&B.

"The Diary of Alicia Keys-Special Edition" album is now available in record stores nationwide and is exclusively distributed by BMG Records (Pilipinas) Inc.

Pamela Anderson urges Queen to stop using fur in guards' helmets

LONDON—Former "Baywatch" star Pamela Anderson has sent a petition to Queen Elizabeth II urging Britain's monarch to stop the use of bear pelts in making the tall black helmets worn by palace guards.

The charity People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals (Peta) said Anderson collected 200 signatures from fans in Britain and mailed the petition to Buckingham Palace on Friday. A palace spokeswoman refused to comment.

In her petition, the 37-year-old actress argued that synthetic materials should be used to make the hats worn by guards who patrol the palace gate.

The towering black hat, or busby, dates back almost 200 years to the Battle of Waterloo and is a key part of the uniform of the five guards' regiments—the Coldstream, Grenadier, Irish, Scots and Welsh.

It also features in traditional ceremonies like Trooping the Color and the Changing of the Guard.

"We the undersigned urge the queen to call on the Ministry of Defense to cease the use of real fur on the uniforms for the regiment of foot guards," the petition said.

Anderson collected the signatures at a London store where she was signing copies of her new novel on Thursday.

"Peta has worked with a top faux fur manufacturer to produce a material that is now being field-tested by the Ministry of Defense to replace bear fur, but during this process bears continue to be killed to make these ceremonial hats," said a Peta spokeswoman.

But army spokesman Lt. Col. Peter Dick-Peter said no suitable synthetic alternative had yet been found.

"The army has been working closely with Peta because they say they can produce a satisfactory alternative using artificial fiber," he said.

"So far, Peta has signally failed to do so."

He added that "no bears are killed simply for the caps."

"The bears are killed to control the population," Dick-Peter said. "Where we can use an artificial alternative, we do so."

Fake leopard skin is now worn by drummers in marching bands, while the smaller busby worn by members of the King's Troop is no longer made from beaver fur. AP

Araneta Center

ENTERTAINMENT GUIDE

ALI MALL CINEPLEX

3	Dolby BABY GENIUSES 2	12:20 pm 2:30 pm 4:40 pm 6:50 pm 9:00 pm
4	SDDS THE GRUDGE	11:20 am 1:45 pm 4:10 pm 6:35 pm 9:00 pm
5	dts CELLULAR	12:20 nn 2:30 pm 4:40 pm 6:50 pm 9:00 pm
6	Dolby THE DOLL MASTER	12:40 pm 2:45 pm 4:50 pm 6:55 pm 9:00 pm
7	Dolby ROOM SERVICE	11:50 am 2:00 pm 4:10 pm 6:20 pm 8:30 pm

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Nov 6	AND 1 MIX & PBL ALL STAR GAME
Nov 7	COKE vs STA LUCIA

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THEATER MOVIE GUIDE

MANILA

EASTERN	
MAXIM	CLOSED
MIRAMAR	SEX BOMB / RAMPADORA
ODEON	X-MEN 2
ODEON-2	BUKID AY BASA / KASIBULAN
ROBEN	BOLD STAR
TANDEM-1	SUGAT
TANDEM-2	KATAWAN MO LANGIT KO
TIMES	SPY / LEGEND OF CROCODILE

QUEZON CITY

ACT-1	SENSUAL ISLAND
ACT-2	KAYA KO PERO MASAKIT
ACT-3	ORIGINAL SIN
ACT-4	HANGGANG KAILAN KA PAPATAY
CORONET A	KARELASYON / NAG-AAPOY NA LAMAN
CORONET B	A MAN APART
QUEZON-1	BEBTUD NG PUTIK
REMAR	X-MEN 2
REMAR-2	BOLD STAR

NOVA MALL - NOVALICHES CINEMA

A	TUKSO SI CHARITO
B	CLOSED
C	

MANDALUYONG CITY

SHANGRI-LA PLAZA MALL	635-20-79 / 633-78-51 TO 70
CINEMA 1, 2,3 & 4	BEFORE SUNSET / GRUDGE / SHARK TALE / WHITE CHICK
PREMERE THEATRE	LADDER 49

CAINTA RIZAL

STA. LUCIA EAST	(681-5401 TO 19)
CINEMA-1	LADDER 49
CINEMA-2	TUKSO SI CHARITO 2
CINEMA-3	FENG SHUI
CINEMA-4 (DOLBY DIGITAL)	HOUSE OF THE FLYING DAGGERS
CINEMA-5 (DTS)	OPEN WATER
CINEMA-6	THE PUNISHER
CINEMA-7	RESIDENT EVIL: APOCALYPSE
CINEMA-8	EXORCIST. THE BEGINNING
CINEMA-9 (DTS)	WHITE CHICKS
CINEMA-10 (DOLBY DIGITAL)	CELLULAR
CINEMA-11 (SDDS)	DOLL MASTER
CINEMA-12	SIN
CINEMA-14	SHARK TAKE
CINEMA-15	SKY CAPTAIN & THE WORLD OF TOMORROW

LORES

CINEMA-2	SENSUAL ISLAND
CINEMA-3	KAYA KO PERO MASAKIT

NE CINEMAGIC - CABANATUAN

(LAS PINAS)	BOURNE SUPREMACY
CINEMA-1	FENG SHUI
CINEMA-2	SECRET WINDOW
CINEMA-4	BANGKOK HAUNTED 2

UNIWIDE COASTAL MALL

(PARANAQUE)	SENSUAL ISLAND
CINEMA-1	KAYA KO PERO MASAKIT
CINEMA-2	MEN IN BLACK II
CINEMA-4	SELDA

EASTWOOD CINEMAS

Eastwood City Walk 2, Eastwood City
E. Rodriguez Jr. Ave. (C-5) Quezon City

For inquiries, call:
687-6963
GUARANTEED SEATS
MOVIES ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE WITHOUT PRIOR NOTICE

1	THE GRUDGE	11:30, 1:50, 4:10, 6:30 8:50, 11:10	R-13
2	WHITE CHICKS	10:45, 1:15, 3:45 6:15, 8:45, 11:15	PG-13
3	SHARK TALE	11:40, 1:50, 4:00, 6:10 8:20, 10:30	GP
4	BEFORE SUNSET	12:05, 2:15, 4:25, 6:35, 8:45, 11:00	PG-13

POWER PLANT CINEMA

Rockwell Center, Makati City ☎ Tel. No: 8981440-41 DOLBY DIGITAL SURROUND-EX

LADDER 49 PG13 12:20,2:45,5:10,7:35,10:00	SHARK TALE GP 12:00,1:50,3:40,5:30 STEAL R13 7:30,9:30	FIRST DAUGHTER GP 12:50,3:10,5:30,7:50,10:10
WHITE CHICKS PG13 12:40,3:00,5:20,7:40,10:05	SKY CAPTAIN GP 12:40,3:00,5:20,7:40,10:00	CELLULAR PG13 1:25,3:35,5:45, 7:55,10:00

MATINEE SCREENINGS BEFORE 5 PM - P 81 - MON. TO FRI.

star group of cinemas movie guide

IN DOLBY DIGITAL SOUND

starmall EDSA-SHAW
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3	Doll Master
4	Cellular
5	Room Service

METROPOLIS star ALABANG
Tel. No. 850.42.85

1	Tukso
2	Room Service
3	Grudge
4	The Doll Master
5	Flying Daggers
6	Phantom of The Opera

starmall LAS PIÑAS
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1	The Sin
2	Reserved

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SHANG CINEPLEX

1	BEFORE SUNSET	(PG-13)
2	GRUDGE	FS 12:40PM 3PM 5:20PM, 7:40PM LMF : 10 PM (R-13)
3	SHARK TALE	FS 11:30AM,1:30PM,3:30PM,5:30PM,7:30PM LMF : 9.30 PM (GP)
4	WHITE CHICKS	FS 12PM, 2:30PM, 5PM, 7:30PM LMF : 10 PM (PG-13)

PREMIERE THEATRE LADDER 49 FS: 11:40AM, 2:15PM, 4:50PM, 7:25PM LMF: 10 PM (PG-13)

For more information please call 633-2227 / 633-7851 loc. 171

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GALLERIA

632-9115 to 16

CINEMA 1 THX LADDER 49

2	BEFORE SUNSET	3	SUPER BABIES: BABY GENIUSES 2	4	THE GRUDGE
5	CELLULAR	6	WHITE CHICKS	7	THE SIN
8	SHARK TALE	9	HOUSE OF FLYING DAGGERS	10	SKY CAPTAIN

ERMITA

536-7809 to 12

1 SUPERBABIES: BABY GENIUSES 2

2	THE DOLL MASTER	3	BEFORE SUNSET	4	CELLULAR
5	LADDER 49	6	THE GRUDGE	7	WHITE CHICKS

METRO EAST

682-8193/99 / 682-8280

1	SHARK TALE	5	CELLULAR
2	SUPERBABIES: BABY GENIUSES 2	6	HOUSE OF FLYING DAGGERS
3	THE GRUDGE	7	WHITE CHICKS
4	LADDER 49	8	THE DOLL MASTER

NOVALICHES

935-3229 / 31

1	THE GRUDGE	5	SHARK TALE
2	SUPERBABIES: BABY GENIUSES 2	6	THREE
3	WHITE CHICKS		SKY CAPTAIN
4	FENG SHUI	8	STEAL

Citisquare MALABON

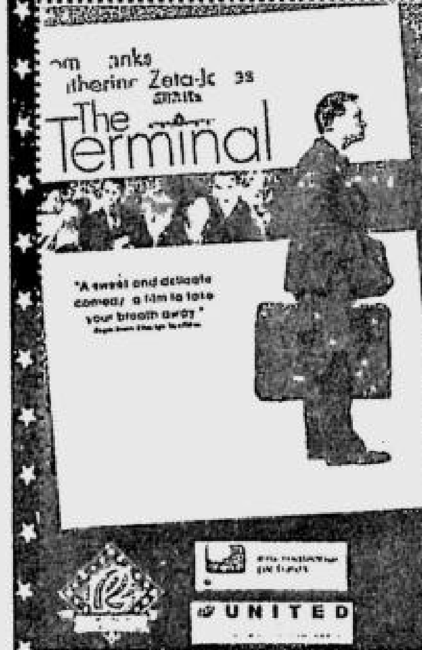
288-0985/2575

1	LADDER 49	3	HOUSE OF FLYING DAGGERS
2	DEAD PEOPLE	4	ROOM SERVICE

CAINTA

240-4661

1	THE GRUDGE		SKY CAPTAIN
2	WHITE CHICKS	4	ROOM SERVICE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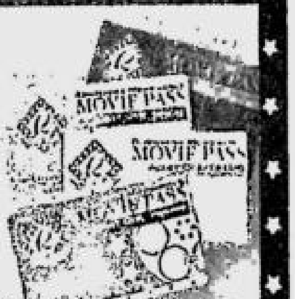

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ENTERTAINMENT *Metro*

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Text us your feedback: inquirer ent name/city/message to 2207 (Globe) or 283 (Smart)

'Hipo' tackles hypocrisy in show biz

By Remy Umerez
Contributor

IT WAS a merry scenario, to say the least.

On Oct. 18 at Boysie Bar, a block away from Aristocrat Restaurant on Roxas Boulevard, bold starlets gathered to wish Allen Dizon a happy birthday on his 26th.

They had all been to bed with the celebrating hunk… on screen, of course.

The other hot Viva newcomers present were: Justine de Leon, who will soon debut in the movie "Mga Pusang Gala"; Fil-Am actor Jerome Ocampo, a regular in GMA-7 shows; ramp model Jayson Colis; Paolo Serrano, a computer science graduate, and Hotmen newcomer Ethan Zulueta.

All five male lookers are in the cast of "Hipo," a sex comedy stage show forthcoming at the Music Museum. "Hipo" is short for "*hipokrito*."

Justine plays a gay character, apparently unmindful of any effect this might have on his macho image. Is he ready for a kissing scene with another man, in front of a live audience?

"I have no idea if there's such a scene," Justine said in Filipino. "If there is, I don't know if I can do it, but my manager will decide that. For me, it's just another job."

Papaya Grande

Katya Santos, as shapely as ever, turned up at the party and bussed everyone in sight.

It made her proud and excited, she said, that she was the one and only choice to play the character Papaya Grande in "Hipo."

"I appeared in my first play before I went bold," Katya recalled. "It was a school play and we were campaigning against abortion."

This early, she said, "Hipo" was making her very nervous. "What if I forget my lines? I haven't read the script, but I know it has substance. And yet it is show biz. My Papaya is a dime a dozen in the industry. She symbolizes anyone who would do anything just to get famous."

To be staged in early December, "Hipo" is written by Vince de Jesus and directed by Soxy Topacio. It tackles hypocrisy, sexuality and morality in show business.

Katya is an original member of Viva Hotbabes, and intends to remain loyal to the group. She explained: "I have no reason to quit Viva. All the things they promised me, they fulfilled. Despite the clampdown on sexy movies, I continue to get assignments. Our Hotbabes videos are selling well and, aside from talent fees, we also get royalties for those."

There's no way she'd go nude, the Bulakeña sexpot said, even if the script of "Hipo" called for it. "I would go as far as showing my butt," she said, "and the sexiest costume I would wear is lingerie."

But for the two-night engagement, she is charging producer Allen Dizon less than her usual fee—her way of showing him support, she said, and because she appreciates the opportunity to get some stage experience.

No second thoughts

Allen, himself a member of the "Hipo" cast, thinks nothing of disrobing onstage. "It's work," he said. "I am more concerned about my performance. As a Hotmen model, I just walk around in briefs, smile, pose. I don't have lines to deliver. This is something new. I have asked myself, could I ad-lib in case I forget my dialogue? The actors I talked to told me the same thing: just be confident and act as if no one is watching you."

The success of "Penis Talks" encouraged Allen to proceed with the venture. "Sex comedies seem to be the trend nowadays, so why go against it? The investment is not that big, and hopefully we can attract more sponsors for repeats."

He also expects to benefit as an actor. "I don't want it said that I'm good only in taking off my clothes," he said. "People tend to have a higher regard for performers who have done stage work."

> "I haven't read the script, but I know it has substance," says Katya. "And yet it is show biz"

COOL, NERVOUS. Allen Dizon says it's just work; Katya is nervous

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Sarah at 16

SHE'S only 16, but Sarah Geronimo has blossomed into a complete entertainer.

She has a quadruple platinum album, sold-out concerts, a TV series and product endorsements (Jollibee and Charmee). And now, she's starring in the movie "Lastikman," where she plays the love interest of Mark Bautista who plays the title role.

With them in the movie are Cherie Gil, John Estrada, Danilo Barrios, Elizabeth Oropesa and Tuesday Vargas.

But the young star says, "I haven't changed. I'm still the old Sarah. Sometimes I'm overwhelmed. I say to myself, Is this really happening?"

Sarah is preparing her second album, "Prinsesa ng Aking Buhay," under Viva Records.

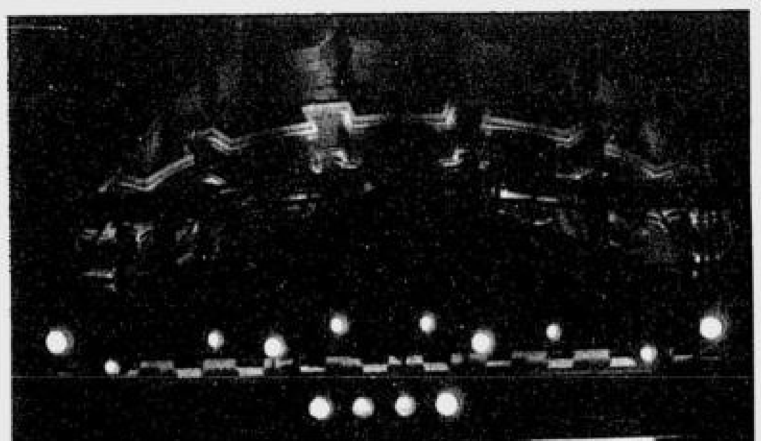
Her show on ABS-CBN, "Sarah The Teen Princess," is set to end next week. "The show introduced me to Filipinos in the US," she says. "The exposure contributed to the success of our concert tour there last month."

Sarah was the Most Promising Female Artist in the Aliw Awards.

In the 17th Awit Awards, she won as Best New Female Recording Artist for "Forever's Not Enough." Her song "Sa Iyo" was Best Dance Song.

"Without Boss Vic [del Rosario of Viva], I wouldn't be where I am today," she says.

But Boss Vic says Sarah is successful because she has talent—lots of it. "She weaves that certain kind of magic that captivates her audience," he says. "You should see the fans practically step on one another just to get close to her."



PRINCESS SARAH. Soon to star in a new movie

Halloween bash at Monsoon

SHOW TIME

ON FRIDAY, Oct. 29, Monsoon Restaurant and Bar at the Linden Suites will host a Halloween bash.

The Essence Band will perform through the night.

The party also includes a raffle where prizes from San Miguel Corp. will be given away, a beer buffet for only P230+ (with bar chow) until 8 p.m., and a 3+1 beer promo for only P246+ until 11 p.m.

The Monsoon Halloween bash is sponsored by The Linden Suites and San Miguel Beer.

Monsoon Restaurant and Bar is on the 2nd floor of Linden Suites at 37 San Miguel Avenue, Ortigas Center, Pasig City.

Call 638-7878 local 8322 or 634-1753.

Pooh & Friends party with kids

NOW THAT students are having a break, kids can join the Pooh Halloween parties at Ayala Center Makati from Oct. 29 to Nov. 2, and at the Alabang Town Center from Oct. 27 to 30.

Kids can explore the Hundred Acre Woods, Pooh's Spooky House, Tigger's House of Tricks and Eeyore's Scary Forest.

They can also meet, greet and pose for pictures with their favorite characters—Pooh, Piglet, Tigger and Eeyore.

At the Halloween Arts and Crafts Corner, children can fashion their own masks, sponge-paint ghosts, decorate cakes and select cool Halloween tattoos.

A spectacular Trick or Treat will be held on Oct. 30 at 4:30 p.m. at the Alabang Town Center and on Oct. 31, also at 4:30 p.m., at Ayala Center Makati. Children in the spookiest and wackiest costumes will have the chance to bag prizes. Special prizes will be given to trick-or-treaters in Pooh costumes.

Admission to these events is free.

The Pooh and Friends activities are sponsored by Globe Handyphone and Ayala Malls.